

Mr Carter transfers \$1,000m of gold to London to secure release of hostages

Tehran and Washington were on the verge of agreement last night on the release of the American hostages. President Carter may fly to greet them in Germany if they are freed before

Feverish work to complete deal

From David Cross Washington, Jan 16
With just four days of President Carter's term left, senior members of his Administration were working feverishly here and in Algiers today to try to put the finishing touches to an agreement with Iran for the release of the 52 American hostages.
In a clear indication that a solution to the crisis might finally be in sight, the United States Treasury announced that the Administration was preparing to release about \$2,200m worth of frozen Iranian assets. A spokesman said that under orders from President Carter, the Administration was in the process of making available in London about 1,600,000 ounces of gold worth about \$1,000m. The gold represents the amount of Iranian gold held in the vaults of the New York Federal Reserve Bank since the freeze on Iranian assets was imposed. The gold involved weighs about 50 tons but it will not be transferred physically to London, according to bankers here. Britain would supply the gold to Iran from its own reserves.
The second step was the sale of Treasury securities worth about \$1,200m also owned by the Iranians. The spokesman added that the completion of these moves would permit the prompt transfer (of funds) to an escrow account in Iran if an agreement can be reached and the hostages released.
Mr Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said that Washington hoped to have its response to Iran's terms in Tehran by tomorrow morning. If the hostages were released before Mr Reagan's inauguration on Tuesday, President Carter might fly to West Germany when the hostages treatment he added.
The negotiations here and in Algiers were expected to continue well into the weekend and senior members of the Administration like Mr Edmund Muskie, the Secretary of State, and Mr William Miller, the Treasury Secretary, were clearing their diaries of other

appointments to continue their deliberations on the technical details of an agreement.
Today's coming and goings by members of the outgoing Administration included the arrival in the Algerian capital of a group of American legal and financial experts, who have been in London trying to work out details of the unfreezing of Iranian assets in American banks here and overseas.
The group also includes two British officials from the Bank of England who are advising the Administration about the legal position of Iranian funds frozen in British branches of American banks. The American members of the group include representatives of government departments like the State Department and the Treasury, as well as a spokesman for the Federal Reserve and private American banks.
A State Department spokesman explained that the presence of the experts was required in Algiers to "explore the mechanical and technical aspects of a proposed deal. Together with Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, they are looking at a detailed and complex document handed to the United States yesterday with Iran's latest proposals for sending the hostages home."
One of the main problems of working out any deal for the release of the hostages has always been the practical and legal complexities of freeing the several billion dollars worth of Iranian assets which were frozen soon after the hostages were seized in November, 1979. Not only are the funds spread among a number of banks here and abroad, but there are also a whole series of outstanding legal claims against them.
The State Department acknowledged as much in the statement it issued here early today. "If, after further study of its several aspects, the approach was being kept abreast of, it appears to be a fair, valid and technically feasible, it will require the cooperation of a large number of individuals and institutions to achieve results in the remaining time," it said.
Nevertheless, "the Iranian response appears to be a promising approach and is being explored on an urgent basis in Washington and Algiers," the statement added.
In the American capital, Mr Muskie, the Secretary of State, summoned a group of legal and financial representatives from about 12 American banks to discuss the mechanics of unfreezing the assets. A State Department spokesman explained that the banks had been discussing the problem of unfreezing Iranian assets among themselves for four or five months and their conclusions were now being sought by the Administration. Mr Muskie and President Carter have been studying the latest Iranian message continually since it was transmitted to Washington about lunchtime yesterday.



Mr John Travolta, State Department spokesman: Hopes brighter than ever before.

Steel men support survival plan in 3-1 vote

By Edward Townsend
British Steel workers have voted by a majority of more than three to one to accept the corporation's survival plan which envisages more mill closures, 22,000 redundancies, and a six-month wage freeze.
The Electoral Reform Society, which conducted the ballot, said that 65 per cent of voting papers were returned and that just over half of the entire workforce supported the plan.
Mr Ian MacGregor, the BSC chairman, said: "I am glad that there are sufficient people interested enough to support the management and this gives us the base on which to push ahead."
The corporation has to wait until Monday before the result of a rival ballot being conducted by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) is known. The union, the largest in the steel industry with 70,000 members at BSC, has described the corporation's ballot as "a waste of public money" and is expecting its members to vote against the survival plan.
The ISTC national executive council is to meet on Monday. A spokesman said that if there were a substantial "No" vote some "very harsh" decisions would have to be made, possibly including industrial action.
Mr William Sims, the union's general secretary, said: "A majority vote in favour of the survival plan was expected in the BSC ballot because more than 35,000 employees in the corporation's non iron and steel subsidiaries, such as plastics, chemicals and engineering, were included. He claimed that 'fear tactics' by executives had convinced most workers that if they did not vote 'Yes' their own works would be shut."
The full result of the BSC



Mr MacGregor, the BSC chairman, yesterday announcing support for the survival plan.

ballot was: 134,616 papers issued; 81,391 returned of which 554 were blank or spoiled. There were 63,237 votes in favour (78 per cent of the valid vote) and 17,900 votes against the plan (22 per cent).
Mr MacGregor said the voting showed that BSC had a solid workforce with the right motivation and attitude. He complimented them on recognizing what had to be done although the results would mean redundancy for some.
British Steel lost £545m in its last financial year and is presently losing almost £2m a week. Losses in excess of £500m are likely again this year. Already the Government has had to boost BSC funding by a further £400m this year to a total of £1,000m.
The scale of the losses made it important for Mr MacGregor to win acceptance of the survival plan before making final representations to Whitehall for an additional £750m of state aid for next year.
He said yesterday that the ballot result would help him "convince the Government and presumably Parliament that our people are behind the programme which will, hopefully, gradually reduce the corporation's dependence on the enormous sums of money which it has needed in recent years to survive."
Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, will announce the Government's aid decision this month. Mr MacGregor already has won support for his plans from other unions in the industry. He said that the outcome of the ISTC ballot would make no difference to the corporation's policy. It could, however, undermine efforts to convince Parliament that the industry was entitled to public support.
Mr Sims yesterday reiterated his view that the MacGregor plan failed to tackle the real problem of British Steel.
"The fact is that European steel producers receive massive state aid on energy, coking coal and transport while the BSC receives none," he said.
He added: "Unless the real problem is faced by BSC and the Government, we will be forced to come back year after year demanding more and more closures."

Bank of England sends officials to Algiers

By Roman Eisenstein
Two Bank of England officials, Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor, and Mr David Somerset, the Chief Cashier, joined other passengers on a United States Air Force aircraft which landed at Heathrow Airport, London, on its way to Algiers.
The dozen or so passengers included representatives of the United States Federal Reserve System, the country's central bank, private American bankers as well as government officials, including Mr William Lake, a

legal adviser with the State Department.
A Bank of England spokesman said the officials had gone at the invitation of the Americans and the Algerians to help in the negotiations over the hostages.
There is speculation in London, however, that as well as helping sort out some knotty technical questions over blocked Iranian funds with branches of American banks in London, they might also help with arrangements for the transfer of any funds to the Algerian

Chad President 'forced to agree to merger'

From Karan Thapar Lagos, Jan 16
President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad was forced to agree to the proposed merger between his country and Libya, reliable sources close to the Nigerian President claim.
The actual agreement was, they say, signed at Tripoli airport as he was departing, apparently believing his life was in danger.
In a surprise development President Oueddei arrived in Lagos yesterday evening at the invitation of the Nigerian Government for urgent talks with President Shagari. It is believed that the purpose of the visit is to assure Chad of Nigeria's support.
According to the account given to me, while President Oueddei was attending the December summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Lagos to determine the future of Chad, two senior Chadian Army commanders were invited to Tripoli. When they arrived, they were held after the Lagos summit, he discovered that the officers had been killed.
It was in Tripoli, according to the account given to me, that President Oueddei was presented with the fait accompli of a mer-

Prior warning of big increase in jobless

By David Felton Labour Reporter
Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, issued a warning last night that there would be another "very big" rise in unemployment this month and the trend of the "appalling" jobless figures was likely to continue.
He coupled the warning with a firm statement of the Government's intention not to reverse its successful attack on inflation.
Speaking to engineering employers in the worst-affected areas of West Midlands, Mr Prior said that a reversal "would be no help to the unemployed at all."
"The best way we can help them and everyone else is to get down inflation and to fight for the future wealth of our country by helping industry to become more competitive and better able to win its share of home and overseas markets."
No member of the Government seeks to deny that this is a difficult time, particularly on the jobs front. We must expect to see another very big rise when the January employment figures come out. The underlying rise will be strongly reinforced by the usual seasonal factors.
"The rise will inevitably continue into the year, although we do expect it to ease off as time goes on." But these appalling figures are, sadly, the inevitable consequence of many years of decline, of a failure of past attempts to reverse that decline.
As an indication of the Government's concern at levels of unemployment, Mr Prior pointed in particular to the youth opportunities programme, which would be helping 440,000 a year.
Shore attack: In his first speech outside Parliament since becoming shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Peter Shore said last night that the Conservative Party was increasingly becoming the enemy of British manufacturing industry (our Parliamentary Staff writes).
Manufacturing output was 16 per cent lower than it was when Mrs Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister and nearly three quarters of the increased job loss has taken place in manufacturing industry, he said.
Speaking in Coventry, he said: "It is Britain's industry and major cities that are bearing the brunt of this Government's inept and cruel economic policies."

McAliskeys still seriously ill as three men are questioned about shooting

From Christopher Thomas Belfast
Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, who during the heady civil rights campaigns in the late 1960s became the youngest MP in the Commons, was still seriously ill last night after being shot at her home in Northern Ireland.
A medical bulletin late last night said that her condition had worsened during the evening. Her husband Michael is also seriously ill but his condition was said to be stable.
Both are in the intensive care unit of Magraw Park Hospital in the southern suburbs of Belfast.
Three men with "loyalist" connections are being questioned by police.
The attackers used a sledgehammer to break down the door of the McAliskeys' remote home at the end of a narrow bog road in Erryloughan, four miles from Coalisland, Tyrone. Mrs McAliskey, aged 34, was shot twice in the right leg and once in the left leg. Bullets grazed her chest. Her husband has wounds to the head, stomach, and right arm.
A patrol of paratroopers in the area heard shots at about 8.15 am and soon afterwards the three men were seized. Three guns were found. An Army helicopter took the couple to hospital and police said prompt medical attention by the soldiers may have saved them from bleeding to death.
Mrs McAliskey recently emerged from a period of relative political inactivity to become the spokeswoman of the national H. Blocks committee. She told friends she thought she might be attacked.
The shooting came on a day of Provisional IRA violence. Mr Ivan Toombs, aged 42, a navy-time major in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was shot dead at Warrenpoint Harbour, Co Down, where he worked as a senior customs officer. Four years ago he was wounded by

UK inflation eases again

Britain's inflation rate eased in December, but its foreign trade surplus fell. The retail price index rose 0.5 per cent to give a year-on-year increase of 15.1 per cent compared with 15.3 per cent in November. The visible trade surplus for November was £246m compared with £258m in November. The surplus for 1980 was £228m against a deficit in 1979 of £1,670m. Manufacturing output showed a further drop Page 19

Reagan man's problem

Mr Raymond Donovan, President-elect Reagan's nominee for Secretary of Labor, has run into serious problems at his confirmation hearing in Washington. There are reports that the FBI has obtained a testimony alleging unethical practices by Mr Donovan's New Jersey building firm Page 4

Secrecy debate pledge

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, has promised Commons time, if there is widespread and general concern, to discuss select committee grievances of ministers refusing to release information the committees wanted Page 3

720 jobs to go

Four hundred and eighty jobs are to disappear at Smedley HP Foods, part of Imperial Group and 240 at the printing and machinery plant of Linotype & Machinery, which is at Altrincham, near Manchester Page 19

Solidarity seeking links with Western unions

Solidarity is to develop relations with Italian and other Western trade unions. In talks with three of Italy's union confederations Mr Lech Walesa, the movement's leader who is visiting Rome, said that common interest united unions in the two countries. Page 4

Seamen strike threat

Leaders of the seamen's union will decide on Monday whether to intensify their week-long campaign of industrial action by calling a two-day national strike next week Page 2

Labour damage warning

Mrs Shirley Williams described next Saturday's special Labour Party conference as a "misleading business" and said that the party's chances would be seriously damaged if it adopted anything like the national executive committee's electoral college proposals Page 2

Police arrest Charles Richardson

By Stewart Tandler Crime Reporter
Charles Richardson, the former London gang leader who absconded from open prison last year, was yesterday arrested in a west London street by two police officers.
Five other people were also arrested and last night all six were being held at Kensington police station. It is possible Mr Richardson may be charged with an offence later.
Scotland Yard refused to give details of how the arrest occurred. Apparently it was felt by senior police officers that after the furor surrounding the arrest of Mr Peter Sutcliffe in Yorkshire it would be better not to run the risk of breaching the contempt law.
But it is understood that Mr Richardson, who fled Springhill Prison, Birmingham, last May, was arrested outside a shop in Hogarth Place, Earls Court.
The arrest shortly after 1 pm, was made by Woman Police Constable Gwen Underwood, aged 22, and Police Constable Martin Lloyd, aged 28, who were in plain clothes and on detachment to the Kensington crime squad. They were carrying out a raid unconnected with the search for Mr Richardson.
Police are also believed to have seized a vehicle.
PC Lloyd said there was a slight struggle in the street but no police officer was injured.
Last night, detectives from the Thames Valley force, who have been in charge of the hunt for Mr Richardson, were on their way to London but it is thought Mr Richardson will not go back to prison for some days.
Earlier this week the Daily Star newspaper published a telephone interview with Mr Richardson, in which he described attending a Christmas party in a London public house dressed as Father Christmas.
He claimed he had been stopped recently in northern England. Continued on page 2, col 4

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HOME NEWS

MPs promised debate on secrecy only if concern warrants it

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, made a significant concession to backbench power yesterday when he promised, on behalf of the Government, to find Commons time for discussion of select committee grievances occasioned by ministers refusing to release information.

Mr Pym qualified his pledge by saying there would need to be a "widespread and general concern in the House" for a debate to take place, and declined to specify in detail how that would be gauged.

He also said that ministers would not succumb to a "select committee" motion proposed by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham West, and the chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts, which sought to establish an automatic right to a debate on the floor of the House where a minister had flouted the Commons' ancient right to send for "persons, papers and records".

Mr Price withdrew his motion in view of Mr Pym's promise and the failure of sufficient backbench MPs to turn up to reach the 100 needed to force a vote. He said after the debate that the Government would be valuable in enabling select committee chairman "to threaten to activate the Pym pledge" on big issues.

However, a lot of denial of information centres on issues too narrow or specialised to be caught by the definition of "widespread and general concern", he added.

The debate also touched on Whitehall's Cronham Directive

in Open Government, to which the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Cabinet's adherence yesterday in a parliamentary answer. Mr Pym acknowledged publicly for the first time that the Government had abandoned the obligation to keep and publish lists of documents released under it, a decision which drew criticism from Mr Price as it made it impossible to monitor the directive's effectiveness.

Restrictions on information civil servants can disclose before select committees, contained in a 60-paragraph memorandum of guidance prepared by the Civil Service Department, were criticised by Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and chairman of both the Treasury and Civil Service Committee and the liaison committee of all select committee chairmen.

"I am a poor document. It is a miserable document. Its whole flavour is wrong", he said. Mr Pym should examine it carefully.

Mr Du Cann wanted the liaison committee to be given a stronger role. He did not support Mr Price's motion as more needed to be done to improve the relationship between the Government and the new select committees it established 18 months ago.

But, he added, if he thought at any time that ministers were deliberately holding information from them, he would come before the house "and not ask for, but demand change".

Mr Pym defended the Government's record in creating the new committees and in setting new standards for frankness with the Commons. Limitations on what civil servants could disclose were conditioned only by the need for good Government and the preservation of national security.

Parliamentary report, page 27

Weedkiller defended by minister

By Hugh Clayton

The Government yesterday rejected criticism from trade unions of official safeguards on the use of weedkiller sprays.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that he had full confidence in the Government's Advisory Committee on Pesticides. He told members of the TUC industrial welfare committee: "Their safety record has been one of unquestioned success."

The committee has cleared for home and industrial use sprays containing the chemical 2,4-D, even though unions claim it is too dangerous to use.

Mr Walker agreed to discuss with other ministers two demands from the TUC for reform of the committee. They were for union representatives to be appointed to it, and for it to be responsible to the Health and Safety Executive instead of to Mr Walker's Ministry.

He told the TUC delegation that their public attacks on the committee had been excessive and intemperate.

Six years' jail for leader of drug smuggling gang

A £330,000 cannabis smuggling operation was doomed to failure from the start, Judge Goodall was told at Plymouth Crown Court yesterday.

Customs men were monitoring the gang's movement from the moment they left England for Morocco and safety escorts were ferried to the yachting centre of Salcombe, Devon.

Officials had expected the landing to be on the Scottish west coast because navigation charts in the area were seen in one of the gang's luggage by a customs man at Heathrow airport, London, at the start of the operation.

April dates for Algardi case trial

By Francis Gibb

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Agnew and Storr, the fine art dealer, allegedly breaking the law over the purchase of a seventeenth-century marble bust by Algardi, is expected to be heard by summary trial.

The art dealer, who was summoned at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday, are accused of a breach of the Auction (Bidding Agreements) Act, 1927, under which, at summary trial, the maximum fine is £400.

Mr Robert Rhodes, for the prosecution, said it would be a test case. It will be heard on April 2 and 3.

It is alleged that Agnew's indictment, another copy of which was sent to the New York, who are outside the DPP's jurisdiction, to enter an agreement to bid jointly for the bust at auction last June.

According to the summons the two companies then agreed to share profits from the resale of the bust. The work was bought for £165,000 and was intended to be sold to the Metropolitan Museum, New York, for £265,000.

Life and leisure: 'In times of turmoil, one always looks back'

Big growth of interest in tracing family roots

By Cyril Bainbridge

Thirty or forty amateur detectives descend every day on a splendid Victorian house in South Kensington, London, looking for clues. The evidence that is constantly being turned over consists of old parish and other registers, some original but much on microfilm.

The sleuths are piecing together the history of their families. It is a form of detective work that gives great satisfaction to increasing numbers of people every year.

Television is partly responsible for the growth of interest in family trees. The serialisation of Alex Haley's book *Roots* had a great impact on genealogy in America where, according to Mr Anthony Camp, director of the Society of Genealogists, tracing the family history is the second most popular hobby.

It has not yet reached such proportions in Britain, although *Roots* created much interest in the subject here, as did a television series in which Mr Con-

don Honeycombe, the former newspaper, traced his ancestry. The society's red-brick headquarters in Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, is where potential and professional genealogists make for. Such has been the increase in interest over the past decade that many of the old records have been placed in danger through constant handling by searchers and in order to conserve the originals, there has been much recourse to microfilm. Some of the registers deteriorate so rapidly that rebinding is necessary every two years.

An indication of the growth of interest is that in 1957 the society had about 1,300 members; it has increased to more than 6,000 and the average of 100 new members being elected every month.

But that is only part of it: add the membership of other groups like family history societies, which exist in every county and have a federation, and other associated groups, and it is estimated that there



"Bjorn Borg, five times Wimbledon champion", by Stuart Osborne, which was installed yesterday at Queensmire shopping centre, Slough.

Dual role for vice-chancellor

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

London University has set up a committee to make recommendations on the appointment of a vice-chancellor for the largest university, to serve from September 1, 1981, after the completion of three years in office by Lord Annan, the present vice-chancellor.

Under the university's new statutes, which were approved last month by the Queen in council, the vice-chancellor will for the first time be both the administrative and the academic head of the university, and will be appointed for between two and four years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further four years.

Until now the vice-chancellor has been appointed for only one year at a time and has acted as a deputy to the Chancellor of the university. All members of the university are being invited to suggest names by January 30.

He declined to talk about his

for consideration by the appointments committee.

There is a feeling among many university members that Lord Annan might be persuaded to stay on despite his nearness to the university's official retirement age of 65. He was 64 last month.

Lord Annan has presided over or initiated a number of significant but as yet unfinished events in the university's life, not least the Flowers report on medical education in London, whose recommendations are still under discussion; the Swinerton-Dyer committee of inquiry into non-medical provision in the university, which is due to report at the end of this year; and the Government's decision to withdraw its financial support for overseas students, which in London's case will mean that £300 of the university's annual income will be at risk by 1982.

He declined to talk about his

plans yesterday, saying that he would be more willing to do so after the new vice-chancellor had been appointed.

However, pressed as to whether he would allow his name to be put forward, he replied: "If the university could not find someone suitable in the short time available, I would be willing to carry on for another year."

He said he was pleased by the change in the statutes regarding the vice-chancellor's term in office. The university would now be able to choose a leader for the next four and possibly eight years "and by God, we have got some difficult decisions to make".

Lord Flowers, FRS, aged 56, Rector of Imperial College, London, and chairman of the committee of inquiry into the university's medical schools, is considered a front runner for the vice-chancellorship, if Lord Annan declines to allow his name to be put forward.

Fourth TV channel may run when the others are off

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of the fourth television channel, gave a strong indication yesterday that some programmes on Channel Four may be shown outside presently recognized viewing hours.

They would be screened, he said, "to entertain when some people have gone to sleep and others want to stay and watch a channel which is not being broadcast when the others were not".

Mr Isaacs, addressing 500 independent programme makers, potential contributors to the channel, said that a high standard of product will be required.

He welcomed the links established with the Independent Programme Producers Association, but said that only half a dozen solidly based companies to fill broadcasting time.

Mr Isaacs said that for important drama and documentary programmes, which could be made this summer and autumn, suggestions should be made

between April 1 and June 30. "We will try to give answers by mid-August."

For programmes relevant to the day, suggestions were wanted between August 1 and late October. Decisions would probably be made in November.

He hoped the programmes might reach some viewers "not at present over-impressed by what we do to cater for their tastes".

"They would 'speak to young people in a tone of voice they want to hear and music they want to hear, not necessarily filtered through a commercial chart'."

The programmes would show women as they are and as they would be, rather than as they are assumed or forced to be; would show a multicultural society in which all communities claim equal rights; equal treatment and equal heritage; and show how Britain can earn its living.

The great questions of the day, like Europe, and defence, would be debated, with opinions from across the political spectrum clearly expressed and forcibly questioned.

Conspiracy to incite racial hatred denied

From Our Correspondent

Two members of the British Movement, the right-wing organisation, denied yesterday that they plotted to incite racial hatred by the use of stickers attacking Jews, communists and the coloured communities.

Roderick Roberts, aged 27, of Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham, and Harvey Stock, aged 39, of Woodbrooke Road, Bournville, Birmingham, both deny that they conspired to distribute threatening, abusive or insulting written material likely to stir up racial hatred.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution at Birmingham Crown Court, told the jury: "These two are members of a group of fascists in the British Movement based in the West Midlands. They are very high up in that group."

The two men were arrested in October, 1979, after they had pushed a smoke device through the door of a Jobcentre office in Birmingham, which failed to find their original target, the office of a race relations organization.

Asked by detectives why they did it, Mr Roberts said: "It was to upset the establishment and make people take notice of the immigration situation."

The men's homes were searched and thousands of offensive stickers were found attacking Jews, West Indians, Asians, communists and their associates. Mr Barker said.

Both Mr Roberts and Mr Stock told the jury they intended to "disturb only those stickers which did not breach the Race Relations Act. The trial continues on Monday."

Killer escapes trial on £1m robbery charge

Henry (Big B) MacKenney, aged 48, and Gwen Andrews his former lover, appeared in dock at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He was accused of a £501,000 robbery in 1979 and of providing him with a false alibi.

When Mr MacKenney, who is serving a minimum of 25 years for four murders, was asked to plead he replied: "I have not robbed anybody or killed anybody."

Ordering the robbery charge to be left on the file, Judge Miskin, QC, the Recorder, said it would be a total waste of public money to try Mr MacKenney on the robbery charge.

Mrs Andrews, of Cranbrook Road, Gants Hill, Ilford, London, denied providing a false alibi for Mr MacKenney and was remanded on bail to appear for trial at Hertfordshire Crown Court.

Also in the dock was Leonard Willsher, aged 46, of Chargeable Lane, Plaxton, London, who denied taking part in the Hertfordshire robbery. He was also remanded for trial.

WEST EUROPE

Signor Forlani wins confidence vote after strong criticism

From John Earle

Rome, Jan 16
Signor Arnaldo Forlani patched over the cracks in his three-month-old coalition by winning a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies at the end of a three-day debate today on terrorism and the Government's handling of the kidnapping of Judge Giovanni D'Urso.

The voting was 353 for, 243 against, with seven abstentions. As one time the Republicans threatened to submit a motion opposed to the line of their coalition partners, the Socialists. They wanted Parliament to endorse the attitude of those newspapers which refused to submit to demands to publish the texts of Red Brigade proclamations. The Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti!* on the other hand was the first important newspaper to favour publication, in the belief that this would help secure the judge's release.

In the end the Republicans dropped their proposal and all four coalition parties—including also the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats—rallied round a motion expressing confidence in Signor Forlani. It was generally realized that only the Red Brigades would benefit from a Government split at this juncture. Signor Forlani's handling of the case, however, came in for strong criticism from the opposition, particularly the Communists on the left and the Italian Social Movement on the extreme right.

Signor Forlani, meanwhile, rested from his 34-day ordeal, which ended with his release yesterday morning near the Justice Ministry where he works. He is staying with his brother-in-law, an Army officer who has quarters in a military encampment on the outskirts of Rome. He is to give a press conference tomorrow.

Summing up the debate, Signor Forlani conceded that there were problems inside his Government. It was not always easy to achieve a high degree of cohesion but this, he argued, was often so, and was due to the Italian political system and the country's political history and traditions.

He said that if terrorism was to be eradicated, not only was greater efficiency by the state needed, but politicians must change their behaviour. If they allowed vicious polemics and unprincipled manoeuvrings to continue, they could not wonder that "terrorism finds more space in Italy than in other countries, inflicts more serious wounds on society, and requires more time and suffering to extirpate".

The search went on for six people, three of them women, wanted for allegedly participating in the D'Urso kidnapping and in the killing on New Year's Eve of General Enrico Galvagni, coordinator of prison security. A seventh, Giulio Cacciotti, a 24-year-old economics student, was arrested, apparently on Saturday, but police kept the new secret in order not to prejudice the chances of the judge's release.

Of the six, who the authorities maintain form part of the Red Brigades' Rome column, which was reformed last year, the best known is Signor Giovanni Senzani, already wanted for providing the weekly magazine *L'Espresso* with a long interview with the Red Brigades.

President alerts French to peril of English invasion

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 16
President Giscard d'Estaing called a special meeting of the High Committee of the French Language at the Elysee Palace today to discuss the threat of English invasion.

French defences against the English invasion, which he made clear was becoming in his words "a peril". It was the first time for five years that the committee had met.

It is not least the will that can suffice if it is not matched by lucidity," he exhorted the committee. "The facts are deeply entrenched, they will not be moved by exhortations, however eloquent they are."

What were the facts? The progress of the English language in France, he explained, "since the nineteenth century the industrial and maritime supremacy of Great Britain and the English language has become a fact of life."

The union wants aid for farmers who produce milk, beef, pork, bacon and eggs. Its claim is likely to be rejected by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He would rather secure the abolition of subsidies abroad than match them in Britain.

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WEST EUROPE

Signor Forlani wins confidence vote after strong criticism

From John Earle

Rome, Jan 16
Signor Arnaldo Forlani patched over the cracks in his three-month-old coalition by winning a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies at the end of a three-day debate today on terrorism and the Government's handling of the kidnapping of Judge Giovanni D'Urso.

The voting was 353 for, 243 against, with seven abstentions. As one time the Republicans threatened to submit a motion opposed to the line of their coalition partners, the Socialists. They wanted Parliament to endorse the attitude of those newspapers which refused to submit to demands to publish the texts of Red Brigade proclamations. The Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti!* on the other hand was the first important newspaper to favour publication, in the belief that this would help secure the judge's release.

In the end the Republicans dropped their proposal and all four coalition parties—including also the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats—rallied round a motion expressing confidence in Signor Forlani. It was generally realized that only the Red Brigades would benefit from a Government split at this juncture. Signor Forlani's handling of the case, however, came in for strong criticism from the opposition, particularly the Communists on the left and the Italian Social Movement on the extreme right.

Signor Forlani, meanwhile, rested from his 34-day ordeal, which ended with his release yesterday morning near the Justice Ministry where he works. He is staying with his brother-in-law, an Army officer who has quarters in a military encampment on the outskirts of Rome. He is to give a press conference tomorrow.

Summing up the debate, Signor Forlani conceded that there were problems inside his Government. It was not always easy to achieve a high degree of cohesion but this, he argued, was often so, and was due to the Italian political system and the country's political history and traditions.

He said that if terrorism was to be eradicated, not only was greater efficiency by the state needed, but politicians must change their behaviour. If they allowed vicious polemics and unprincipled manoeuvrings to continue, they could not wonder that "terrorism finds more space in Italy than in other countries, inflicts more serious wounds on society, and requires more time and suffering to extirpate".

The search went on for six people, three of them women, wanted for allegedly participating in the D'Urso kidnapping and in the killing on New Year's Eve of General Enrico Galvagni, coordinator of prison security. A seventh, Giulio Cacciotti, a 24-year-old economics student, was arrested, apparently on Saturday, but police kept the new secret in order not to prejudice the chances of the judge's release.

Of the six, who the authorities maintain form part of the Red Brigades' Rome column, which was reformed last year, the best known is Signor Giovanni Senzani, already wanted for providing the weekly magazine *L'Espresso* with a long interview with the Red Brigades.

President alerts French to peril of English invasion

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 16
President Giscard d'Estaing called a special meeting of the High Committee of the French Language at the Elysee Palace today to discuss the threat of English invasion.

French defences against the English invasion, which he made clear was becoming in his words "a peril". It was the first time for five years that the committee had met.

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Treaty to revive Community backed

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 16
An appeal for "new life" to be injected into European union was made today by Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the European Commission.

In an interview with European news agencies, Mr Thorn declared his support for a recent suggestion by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, for a new treaty on European union to underpin the internal cohesion of the EEC as it prepares to tackle the reform of its finances and to embark on a further phase of enlargement.

Earlier this month, in Stuttgart, Herr Genscher, who leads the Free Democratic wing of the West German coalition government, said that such a treaty might cover the co-ordination of foreign and defence policy, the harmonization of legislation, greater cooperation in cultural affairs and the extension of Community policies into new areas.

Mr Thorn, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, like Herr Genscher, a Liberal tradition, agreed that a treaty of this kind could reinvigorate the EEC and do so without adding to the Community's budgetary costs.

"Political cooperation"—EEC shorthand for the co-ordination of foreign policy by member states—could be made more effective by the creation of a permanent institution, a so-called "European Council", to handle it, Mr Thorn said.

He gave a warning, however, against trying to go too far, too fast, in giving institutional form to political cooperation.

The view of Mr Thorn and Herr Genscher are being studied with close and sympathetic interest in London where it is felt that to some extent they complement recent speeches by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

There is no great enthusiasm in Britain for the phrase "European Union", which is felt to smack too much of 1950s federalist theology about a United States of Europe, a phrase which has long since been abandoned by Lord Carrington and Lord Genscher.

In a speech in Hamburg last November Lord Carrington said that with the increasing need for EEC member states to work out common responses to world events, the Community could not rely for ever on "ad hoc methods and improvised organization".

He suggested the setting-up of a permanent foreign policy staff in Brussels, a seconded temporarily from member states, and proposed a method for calling meetings of foreign ministers within 48 hours if any three member states considered there was a crisis requiring rapid consultations.

EEC not taking France to court on budget

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 16
There was no question of dragging France before the European Court of Justice for refusing to pay its share of the supplementary budget approved by the European Parliament, Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission said on French television last night.

The problem was sufficiently serious to force the system, he said, but he would be seeking to de-dramatize the situation. "We cannot lose three months each year in budgetary quarrels. We must arrange the system, it must be accommodated and above all we must see that the conciliation procedure between the Parliament and the Council of Ministers is improved."

France remains firm in its view that the supplementary budget was illegally passed.

Mr Thorn said that the EEC Commission would not operate the same system of separation.

The reason for the separation is apparently that it is necessary to question Greeks but this would embarrass them and delay others. Some Greeks are also unaware of the transitional period and believe there is no bar to their immediately seeking jobs in Britain.

The Home Office said that alternative arrangements were being considered but in the meantime immigration officials would ensure that Greeks would be delayed as little as possible.

MEP for London North-West, who is spokesman on relations with Greece for the European Democratic group.

Mr Bethell said yesterday that most other EEC countries did not operate the same system of separation.

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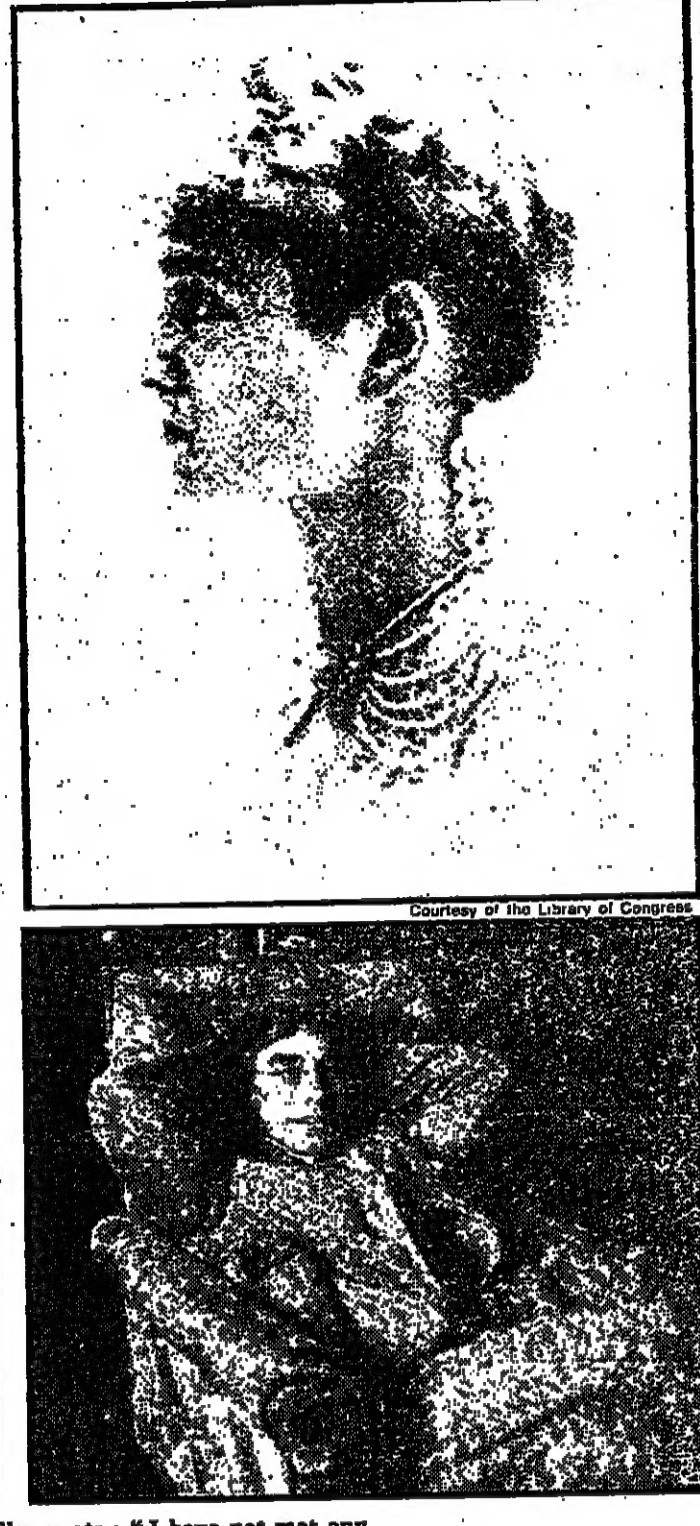
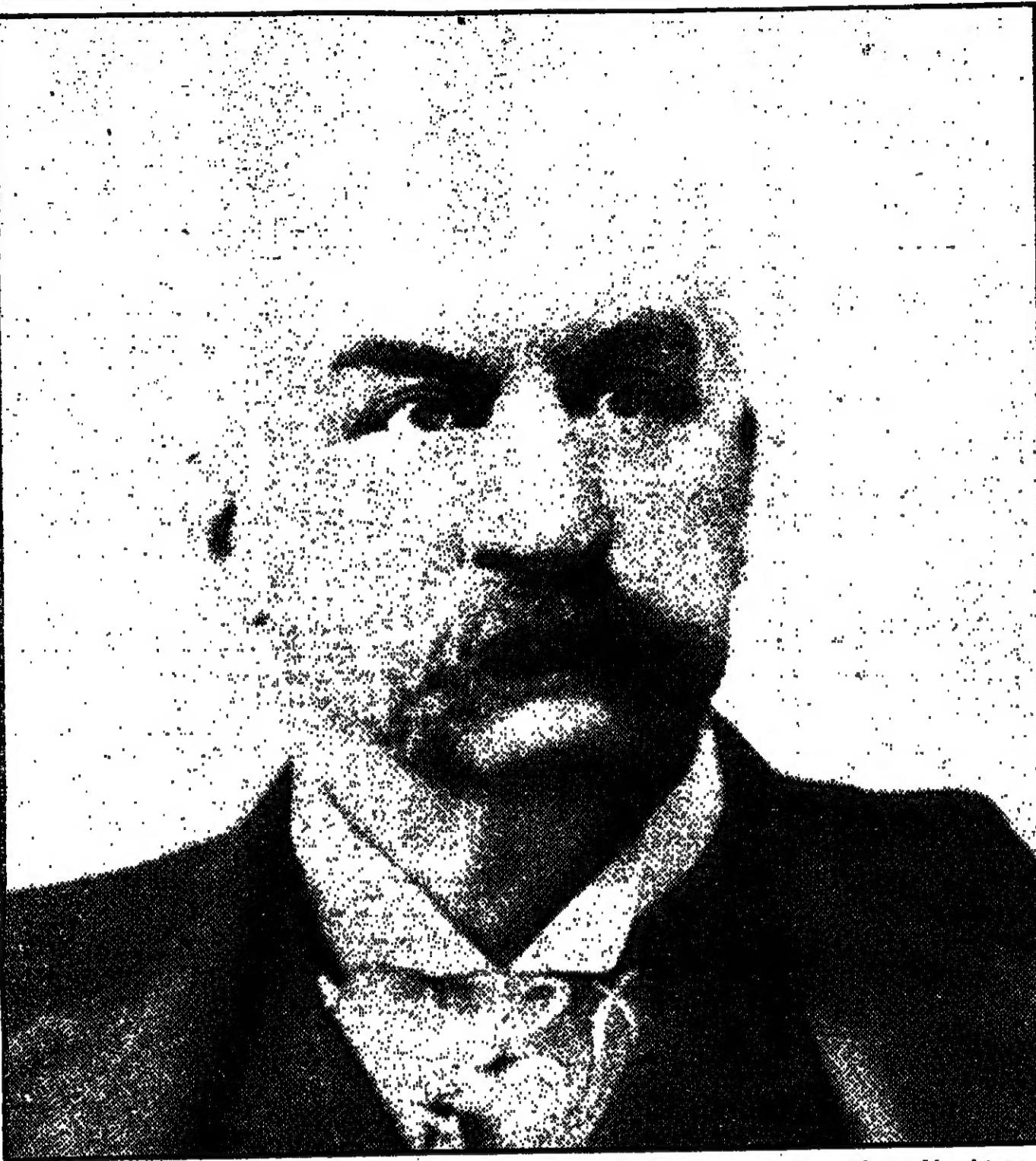
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Saturday Review

J. Pierpont Morgan
the discriminating collector

by Andrew Sinclair



Pierpont Morgan (above) took Lady Victoria Sackville (above right) as his mistress. She wrote: "I have not met any one as attractive." But his tame art expert, Roger Fry (right) considered him "too much a God Almighty".

Like Cyrano de Bergerac, Morgan's life and love life were famous for his nose. More and more, it looked like an overripe pomegranate. In his early life this affliction made him silent and withdrawn. In his middle life it made him brusque and aggressive. In his later life he learned that he would not appear in the streets without it. Morgan's nose had become international folklore. As he said himself, "It is part of the American business structure."

If Morgan's first rule was discretion, his second was indiscretion. But in that order. He was notorious for travelling with beautiful women on the Corsair or in his private railroad cars while his wife stayed at home. Yet he bought a conspiracy silence. No reporter dared to name names for fear Morgan might buy his whole newspaper from behind his back. No editor risked printing names in case of a libel suit. And no mistress would speak out and lose her golden goose.

Morgan had the power to ensure the privacy enjoyed by his contemporary, Edward, Prince of Wales, in pursuit of the same satisfactions. And like the Prince of Wales, he did not forgive those who broke his rules. When Charles M. Schwab, whom Morgan had just made president of the steel trust, went on a scandalous junkie to Monte Carlo, Morgan dressed him down like a bad servant for daring to sully the reputation of a Morgan company, even by association.

"But all I did," Schwab said, "was what you have been doing behind locked doors for years."

"That, sir," Morgan replied, "is what doors are for." With the double standard of the Victorian gentleman, Morgan put his wife first, as long as she stayed in the home and in her proper place. A neighbour who knew him well said that Morgan was a great gallant, but that few knew of his wife's beauty and charm. One who did was the actress Mary Anderson of Navarro, who found Mrs Morgan amusing, even about her husband's passion for collecting. "Why," she said, "Pierpont would collect anything from a pyramid to Mary Magdalene's tooth."

Morgan believed absolutely in the purity of the home and the partition outside it. The women of his family were hardly ever allowed in the Drexel building. That was a male preserve; in fact, George Perkins was forced to keep his woman secretary across the street. Only when Morgan was beginning to retire was she allowed to occupy a cubbyhole inside the Drexel building, where the old man could not possibly see her.

As for the various Corsairs, they were understood to be Morgan's pleasure ground, an understanding shared by the wives of the other plutocrats who owned yachts. Mrs William B. Astor once admitted that she had never set foot on her husband's boat, and then she added: "Pierpont's confession from a wife, is it not?"

It was usual at that time. It was better for a wife to hear nothing of her husband's private amusements. Mrs Morgan was a wife in the proper mould. She was as much as her husband enjoyed it. She often disapproved him by her shyness. She would refuse to wear the Worth gowns he bought for her. She would frequently decline to go with him to formal occasions. In a way she could blame herself for his notoriety with other women. She did not choose to compete.

Morgan's taciturnity covered his tracks. He wrote few letters, except to his father when Junius was alive, and these he destroyed. Love letters from him do not exist. If they were written, they were returned. He bought back and destroyed. He never felt the need to boast or to confess. Who would wish to be a Don Juan if he could be a Morgan? Except in one case, there is no record of his technique as a lover. And that record was kept in a family beyond even Morgan's control: a family now famous for its many indiscretions.

In 1900 in London, Morgan met the famous Lady Victoria Sackville. The illegitimate daughter of a Spanish dancer and Lionel Sackville-West, she had served as her father's official hostess at the British embassy in Washington at the age of 18. Queen Victoria herself had approved of this extraordinary arrangement, and Victoria Sackville-West had been the toast of Washington during the 1880s.

She had returned to England to marry her first cousin, Lord Sackville, and to be the mistress of the great house of Knole. In later years, she became the mistress of Sir John Murray Scott, the secretary and heir of Sir Richard Wallace, and the man who persuaded Lady Wallace to leave her dead husband's great collection to the nation in 1900—at least, the niece he did not remove for himself.

That was the year Lady Victoria met Pierpont Morgan. She was immediately attracted to his power and magnetism, noting that she even liked his gigantic nose. (She was not like the notorious English peeress, mentioned by James Henry Duveen, whose debts of £200,000 were to be paid by Morgan; but after his down payment of £15,000, she had welshed on the bargain with the remark, "I just cannot bear the thought of being kissed by that nose").

In fact, Morgan's ugliness drove him to conquer beautiful women, and his urge to possess drove him to collect them, as if they were illuminated manuscripts or rare railroads. He was constantly on the attack. As Lady Victoria's diary disclosed, and she loved mixing business with pleasure, art with flesh.

She was ready to be courted after 1900, when Sir John Murray Scott had a stroke; he would die within three years, leaving a legacy worth half a million pounds to Lady Victoria. And after 1909, Morgan was ready to court her, after losing Maxine Elliott to Edward VII at Marienbad. When Lady Victoria met Morgan again, she was pleased to find another wealthy protector, who might take Sir John Murray Scott's place in her life and use his fortune to help keep up Knole.

Although Morgan was in his seventies, she was mesmerized by his aura of power. He had bought Gainsborough's *Miss Linley* for £36,000 from the Knole collection, and he invited her to Prince's Gate, apparently to discuss further art deals. Her diary for July 8, 1911, records:

We sat on a long sofa, yards away from each other. It was most awkward. He asked me what and why we had to sell anything. I said, "I don't know. I thought it was a case of take it or leave it." He thought for a few moments and said, "Well, I'll take your tapestries to help you. How much do you want for them?"

"I don't want any tapestries, let me come down to Knole and look around." "No, Mr Morgan, it is a case of take it or leave it." He thought for a few moments and said, "Well, I'll take your tapestries to help you. How much do you want for them?"

They soon agreed on a price of £65,000. On the way to the door Morgan told Lady Victoria in his arms, saying: "I hope you don't mind." She was utterly astonished at such a sudden approach. Twelve days later, he came to Knole and was delighted at what he had agreed to buy, particularly a tapestry called *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Ten days after that, he came to dinner at Knole. The diary reads:

I had a long talk with him in the garden. He told me many

of the bothers of being rich, but the great thing to have to do was to behave like the impractical, romantic young man he had been at the time of his marriage to Mimi Sturges, sweeping an experienced and sophisticated peeress of 50 off her feet as if she were a young girl.

After that, Lady Victoria went regularly to Prince's Gate. She had to see him hurriedly between business meetings, but she was fascinated by watching him decide what to do about his worldwide financial empire. When he left England that autumn she waited for his return in May of 1912 on his way to Egypt. The diary for May 20 reads:

I called on busy Mr Morgan at Prince's Gate. He was arranging a loan with ten men, for China, but he gave me half an hour all the same. He came in like a whirlwind and crushed me, saying he had longed for this moment, that he had told nobody of his return, but wanted to see me at once. . . . I can think of nothing else. That man has such marvellous personality and attraction for me.

She wrote this despite a quarrel over the Gainsborough portrait, *Miss Linley*, which she could not bear to see hanging in Prince's Gate and not at Knole. She offered to buy it back from him, when she had the money. He refused to part with it at any price. She accused him of liking *Miss Linley* better than her, but he replied: "That I was the only woman he loved and would never change. He is very careful not to get me talked about and told me so, and said it would be too dangerous to come to America this winter. He keeps on saying that there is nothing better in the world than the affection he has for me. How can he find time to come as I know he is so busy. I won't talk about *Miss Linley* or money with him; I hate it. Our friendship must be free from any sordid motive."

Two days later, Morgan visited Lady Victoria alone. He told her that he had cared for her ever since he had met her, but had not dared tell her. He confessed how much he had been in love on the day when he had talked to her in the garden at Knole. He swore he would always love Lady Victoria, even if she fell ill or became ugly.

And so he left her for his last voyage to Egypt and his death the following March in Rome. At 74 he was behaving like the impractical, romantic young man he had been at the time of his marriage to Mimi Sturges, sweeping an experienced and sophisticated peeress of 50 off her feet as if she were a young girl.

His death was timely for his private love of her. She was in the storm of a great scandal in 1913, reported everywhere. The heirs of Sir John Murray Scott sued her for undue influence over her benefactor and for the return of the half-million-pound legacy. She was cross-examined for two days by F. E. Smith, the most brilliant barrister of his time; but she was one of the few witnesses who ever defeated him. She persisted in treating him as if he were a cad whom she had to tell off at dinner. She did her best to embarrass him socially, and she succeeded. She won the case and kept the legacy for Knole. But Morgan would have hated the notoriety.

This last late love affair of Pierpont Morgan is the only one on record. It showed his latent romanticism and his aggression. He liked to use his power, to crush and dominate the women in his life. After his long repression by his father and by Victorian morality, he was greedy for the experiences he had missed in his young manhood and long apprenticeship. With the urbane manners of Edwardian society, whereby the rich and powerful were allowed to seduce their clandestine liaisons, Morgan came out of the display cabinet, but not as far as the press. Arrogant as always, he thought he was immune from publicity because he had the power to suppress it. And except for Lady Victoria's diary, he was successful. But even with such elaborate caution, no man can hide everything forever.

Morgan's frantic acquisition of what was probably the greatest collection made since Lord Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace's was done openly and in full view of the public. The bulk of his collections on loan in English museums if he had not managed to help change the revenue laws of his home country. As early as 1903, he had consulted the Secretary of the Treasury about bringing his treasure trove back to America for exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum—so long as there were no customs duties to be paid. Six years later a law was passed that works of art more than 20 years old could be imported duty-free; the law was later changed to 50 years and then abolished. This was the signal for the transfer of the Morgan hoard across the Atlantic.

After he had become president of the Metropolitan Museum in 1904, Morgan's ambition was not only for the enrichment of his monumental library, but also for the enlightenment and education of the citizens of New York through their leading display case of antiquities. His problem was that he tried to run the museum like a fiefdom, and that the other trustees, and even the curators, were not prepared to act as villains. As the Great Gatsby discovered, Americans were occasionally willing to be serfs, but were always obstinate about being peasants. Although Morgan's imperiousness usually carried the day, he could be confronted from time to time, if never confounded.

Every triumph seems to provoke a chosen enemy, and Europe's response to Morgan's splendid piracies was to send over the aesthete Roger Fry, beloved by Virginia Woolf, Fry was a precious, vain and modest art critic, desperate to keep ahead of the *Burlington Magazine*. His reputation as an expert was almost as great as Bernard Berenson's, and he cost less; he did not demand a 25 per cent sales commission from the Duvensoys for authenticating Italian works of art. Fry knew of the boom in old masters across the Atlantic and hoped to fleece the American millionaires without compromising his disapproval of them.

When Morgan asked him to come to New York in 1905 to act as second-in-command to Sir Purdon Clarke at the Metropolitan Museum, he jumped at the chance. On his arrival in New York, Fry saw himself as the arbiter of the immense art boom taking place in America. He was exhilarated by the bigness of the job and his own confidence in the future. Then he fell into the trap of greed that Morgan's luxurious style spread as a lure about him. Fry tried to renegotiate his proposed salary in his mind before it was too late. He was running the Metropolitan Museum as he ran the board of any of his reorganized companies. He tried to break Fry's resistance by withdrawing his offer of help for the *Burlington Magazine*. In writing home, Fry complimented himself on his own courage:

Above all, I don't regret that I stood up to Morgan. If I hadn't, my position here would have been intolerable. He's not quite a man; he's a sort of financial steam-engine and I should have been the position of watching the cranks work and dancing attendance. I wanted if we came to be in a position of complete independence, able to help him by advice without looking to him for any returns. But he likes to be in a position of being surrounded by people he has in his power to make or unmake. . . . He's much too much a God Almighty.

Fry's letter was a little disingenuous. Morgan was the power behind the rapid rise of the Metropolitan Museum, and as long as he was alive, he would interfere with its salaried officers. There was no question of independence in those jobs. But a kind of compromise was effected. Morgan gave Fry some money for the *Burlington Magazine* and retained him as a European adviser and curator of paintings for the Metropolitan. Fry returned to London, where his presence on the Morgan payroll made him even more virulent against his benefactor. He not only bit the hand that fed him, but asserted his master was blind.

Fry now claimed that Morgan did not need anything but flattery; he did not wish to listen to what art critics said; he wished them to confirm his personal judgments. "All he wants experts for is to give him a sense of his own wonderful sagacity," Morgan, in Fry's view, was too swollen with pride and with his own power to allow other people their rights. Even his artistic choices were finally damned by Fry with the jibe "a crude historical imagination was the only sensibility towards art."

It was the final flutter of the butterfly crushed by the buffalo, not the sneer of the aesthete condemning the Philistine. Morgan had a long experience as a ferocious collector with an eye for the good work and the main chance. "Entre nous he's a brigand like all these great business men," Fry complained to his wife. "Business is warfare is their acknowledged motto, so one has to be pretty sharp."

That is what Fry particularly hated: Morgan's success in getting what he wanted in art as well as business. Yet Fry failed to judge himself for doing in New York what he affected to despise in others. "The money pours in here like anything," he wrote home. "I charge £20 for an opinion on a picture and have already had to give it on quite a lot."

Despite his sniping, Fry followed as meekly as a towed boat in the wake of Morgan's plundering trips to Europe. He agreed with the financier's decision not to purchase a Degas, possibly *Le Viol*, because its subject might offend the "Comstockians" of New York. Fry, Morgan had supported the Society for the Suppression of Vice, which had allowed Comstock to impose his prudery on the city.

Fry also complained to his wife that Morgan would not help the Metropolitan Museum acquire anything that did not redound to his glory. Finally, after four years of lip service, he lost his post over a superb Fra Angelico *Virgin and Child* from the collection of Leopold, King of the Belgians. Fry had reserved it for the museum. A few days later, Morgan himself saw the picture in Paris and bought it for his private collection. With the occasional bravery of the man who despises himself for what he is doing, Fry decided to write to Morgan, telling him that the French art dealer had sold the Fra Angelico only because he believed that Morgan was completing the purchase that Fry had made on behalf of the museum.

The letter infuriated Morgan, who called it the most remarkable letter he had ever received. He made his anger known in the museum, which terminated Fry's tenure after months' notice. He would not tolerate any examination of the nice line he trod between being a private collector and a public benefactor. He wanted to enjoy a work of art himself before it might be sold to a Morgan loan or gift in the museum so largely developed through his support. Morgan's indulgence of his tastes in women and art, and his ruthless power, were part of a grand style that he felt was his earned due. He would have to account to God in the end, but he usually felt secure enough to be able to balance those accounts. All in all, his was the semi-divine right of the Edwardian gentleman to take what he pleased to the glory of the senses and with the connivance of his conscience.

At a dinner party one evening at Prince's Gate, an English lady turned to Morgan's friend, Bishop Lawrence, saying how interesting the collections were in Morgan's house. "My dear bishop," said the bishop, "the most interesting thing in this house is the host."

He was right, and his reasons for saying so explained the admiration of the few people who ever pierced the financial armour of arrogance which so repelled Roger Fry. While staying at Prince's Gate, the bishop had caused every day to marvel at some characteristic in the titan at home.

"He was in some ways as simple as a child, most emotional, most bashful, masterful, courageous: a genius in his instinct for things beautiful; with a brain that drove him ceaselessly on in his search for beauty and his desire to acquire the best. His dominant characteristic was his intuition: of truth, of his eye and mind seemed to pierce and consume sham and lies."

So searching in exposing the truth of others, Morgan hid his own. He was two things to all men: admirable to the few people who knew him, dreadful to the masses who did not. Solitaire was his usual card game, and his silence exacted nothing.

This extract is taken from *Corsair* by Andrew Sinclair, to be published by Weidenfeld in May at £10.

RADIO

TELEVISION

TELEVISION

Son's guests are Muhammad Ali
and the comedy impressions
Fredddie Starr. (See Personal
Chance).

10:45 Film: The Man who loved
Dancing (1973) Off-beat
western, with Sarah Miles running
away from her stuffy husband and
becoming involved with a gang of
train-robbing lads.

TV Listings Richard C.
Sarafian. Ends at 12:45 am where
there is the weather forecast.

Regions

SBC - 1 VARIATIONS - SBC covers
Norfolk: 6:50-8:30 Sports News
Wales: 12:45 am News and Weather for
the North
London: 6:50-8:30 Sports News
International Fringe Network: 4:55-
5:55 pm News and Weather for
Ireland 11: 12:45 am News and
Weather for Scotland
Cardiff: 6:50-8:10 pm Screened, 5:45-
6:55 pm Northern Ireland News
Belfast: 6:50-8:30 News and Weather
for Great Britain
New York: 5:45-5:50 am News
from London

[illegible]

at 1.10.

9.15 News from ITN. And sports round-up. 9.30 *The Professionals*. A band of mercenaries, experienced in jungle warfare, is parachuted into Britain. With Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw, John Wood, and John Wood. 10.30 *The Big Match*: Highlights from three of today's football matches. With Brian Moore and David Renton. 11.30 *Film*: *Grip of the Strangled* (1958) Above-average shocker, with Boris Karloff as the novelist who is strangled by a woman in the strangling case he is investigating. He is the killer. With Jean Kent. Elisabeth Allen. * Director: Robert Wise. 12.00 *Am Close*: Richard Easton reads two stories from *Thurber's Fables* for Our Time.

by David Robinson

charming inter-war work that ends with a war hero in a dark, fluffy robe (tomorrow, BBC 2, 11.25). Albert Finney's only venture as director, is still the best validation to the swinging sixties—the story of a man who is a socialist, a Marxist, a politician sophisticated in valuing his provincial roots. The Music Hall Greatest series offers a new look at the 1930s, with a 1944 recreation of the early days of the balls, Champagne Charlie (Thursday, BBC 2, 6.00). Tommy Trinder plays the Lionel Lincoln character, a dandy who is Stanley Holloway his rival. The Great Vence.

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Ammes

boy friend (Stephen Moore) still
 9.35 *That's Life*: Another oblique
 look at our daily existence, by a
 team that sometimes rights
 wrongs, other times in childishly
 silly or genuinely witty.
 10.15 *News*. 10.35 *Everyman: The
 Parity of the Gen*. Film about an
 elite commando unit of the Israeli
 army, exploring the relationship
 between their beliefs as Jews and
 their work as professional sol-

[illegible][illegible]

Hart to Hart.: Crime story, Robert Wagner and Stefanie

7.45 **Hart to Hart:** Crime story, with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers as a slinking couple.

8.45 **News from ITN.**

9.00 **Sunday Night Thriller:** Dark comedy. Part one of John Bowen's drama about a mother (Anne Bancroft), her young son (Paul Spurrer) and the voices she thinks she hears talking to her.

10.00 **Agony:** Comedies about the presenter of an "agony" spot on radio (Maureen Lipman). She decides to give up her job to prepare for motherhood.

10.30 **The South Bank Show:** Portrait of the black American novelist, Toni Morrison. Includes a new play by Peter Nicholls 'The Passion Play', including interviews with Elton Atkins and Billie Whitelaw.

11.00 **Oscar Peterson:** Old and new recordings from this great jazz pianist. With Ray Charles, Ray Brown (bass), Barney Kessel (guitar) and Roy Eldridge (trumpet).

11 12

vice: Into the Open (2)—Writing Skills.

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.02 Tom Edwards.† 8.06 David Jacobs. 10.02 Pete Murray.† 12.02 pm The Magic of Stanley Black.† 1.02 The Impressionists. 1.30 Sport Rugby; Football; Ascot Racing Tennis; Sports Report. 6.05 European News. 7.00 Turf. 7.02 East of England. 7.30 Big Band Session. 8.02 Country Greats.† 10.0 Nording Rendezvous.† 11.0 Sports Desk. 11.10 Tom Browne. 2.02 am-6.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

Radio 1
5.00 am As Radio 2, 7.05: Play
ground, 8.05 Tony Blackburn
10.00 Steve Wright, 1.00 pm Adrian
Juste, 2.00 A King in New York
4.00 Paul Gambaccini, 4.50
Waters, Weekly, 7.50 Rock On,
7.30 Close

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am
With Radio 2, 1.00 pm With Radio
2, 7.30-8.00 am With Radio 2

World Service
BBC World Service can be received
in western Europe on medium wave
(540-1560 kHz) at the following
times (GMT):
6.00 am Newswatch, 7.00 World News
7.00 am Newswatch, 7.30 World News

The Westlies	7.45	Network UK	8.00
Corrie	8.00	ITC	8.00
Corrie	8.30	ITC	8.30
Time	9.00	World News	9.00
Review	9.30	ITC	9.30
Today	9.30	ITC	9.30
Today	10.00	ITC	10.00
10.15	About Britain	10.30	Aspects
The Bios	10.30	World News	11.00
11.00	ITC	11.00	11.00
11.25	The Week in	11.30	ITC
11.50	ITC	11.50	11.50
Any Annings	12.45	ITC	12.45
Round-up	1.15	ITC	1.15
Round-up	1.15	ITC	1.15
Network UK	1.45	Comedy Story	2.00
1.45	ITC	1.45	1.45
If My Way	2.00	Radio News	2.15
2.15	ITC	2.15	2.15
6.00	Complementary	4.15	Saturday
6.00	News Summary	5.02	Saturday
6.00	Complementary	5.15	People and Politics
6.00	Complementary	5.15	People and Politics
Our Own Correspondent	10.00	World News	10.00
News	10.09	Theatre Club	10.30
10.30	ITC	10.30	10.30

[illegible]

Southern
As London except: Starts 9.00 am
Season: Starts 10.00 Claspdown
Lunch 11.30 Regional Weather
Lunch 11.35 am The Stanley Baxter
Season: 12.30 am Weather.

Border
As London except: Starts 9.15 am
Simply Bowling: 9.35 Raydon 10.00
10.45 Alford
Lunch 11.30 pm Claspdown.
Lunch 11.30 pm Claspdown.

Grampian
As London except: Starts 9.10 am
Simply Bowling: 9.40-10.35
Barrie Lewis 12.25
Barney Miller, 12.30 Claspdown.

ATV
As London except: Starts 9.10 am
Bumpin' Swamin 9.25 Babylon 10.00
10.30 The Fantastic Four 11.30 pm
Quincy 12.30 CloseDown

Tyne Tees
As London except: Starts 9.00 BJ and
the Bear 9.30 Cartoon: Ferdinand the
Dog 10.30 Film: The Heroes &
Telemark 11.40 pm Doctor Down Under
12.10 am Sam Thorne's Company 12.15
CloseDown

Ulster
As London except: Starts 9.15 am
Dance 9.40 Play Squaring Jonah
10.05 10.30 Cartoon Time 10.50
11.15 11.40 Film 12.15 pm
12.30 12.50 Bedtime 11.40 CloseDown

ray.† 1.37 pm The Choice #
Yours. 1.52 Listen to Les.† 2.00
Benny.† 2.15† 3.02 The Dell
4.02 Country Srle. 4.30 Sing
Something Simple.† 5.02 Two
Best. 5.02 Charlie Chester. 7.02
Treble Chance. 7.30 Marching and
Waiting. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour
9.02 Your 100 Best Tunes. 10.02
Party.† 10.30 Fiesta.† 11.02 Tom
Brownie. 12.02am-5.00. You and the
Night and the Music.†

Radio 1
8.00 am Tony Blackburn. 10.00
Noel Edmonds. 1.00 pm Jimmy
Savile. 3.02 Studio B15. 4.00 John
Lennon (1).† 5.02 Top 40.† 7.02
Alexis Korner.† 8.00 Sounds of
Jazz.† 10.00 Close.

YHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 6.00 ~~with~~
With Radio 2. 4.00 pm With
Radio 1. 10.00-5.00 pm With Radio
2.

World Service
BBC World Service can be received in
Western Europe on medium wave (643-650
kHz, 40-50m) at the following times:

7:00 am	Newsday	1.00	World News	1.00
7:30 am	News about Britain	1.15	From the	1.15
8:00 am	News about Britain	1.15	From the	1.15
8:30 am	News about Britain	1.15	From the	1.15
9:00 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
9:30 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
10:00 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
10:30 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
11:00 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
11:30 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
12:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
12:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
1:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
1:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
2:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
2:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
3:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
3:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
4:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
4:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
5:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
5:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
6:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
6:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
7:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
7:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
8:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
8:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
9:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
9:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
10:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
10:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
11:00 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
11:30 pm	World News	1.00	Review	1.00
12:00 am	World News	1.00	Review	1.00

Letter from America. 11.30 Music News.
12.00 World News. 12.00 News about
the world. 12.30 News about the world.
Religious Service. 1.00 Concert Hall.
1.35 Come Home. 2.00 Kind words.
2.30 Review of the British Press. 3.00
Stars in their Eyes. 3.30 International.
Tales of the Wand around. 3.00 World
News. 3.00 News about Britain. 3.15
The One. 3.30 Living '90s. 4.00
Newsdesk. 5.45 Anything for John.

Farming Outlook: 2.00 Satchi tuitcan.
12.6 University Challenge: 2.45 Harry
Days: .15-1.00 The City: 8.00
Cavalcade: 4.30 With me Will here
12.6 University Challenge: 2.45 Harry
Sandy McDonald: 9.25-5.50 The Ho-
story: 11.30 Curing: 12.00 Late Calat:
Close-down: The Old Course: 12.35

Anglia

As London except: Starts 9.05 am
Doctor: 9.20-10.00 Simply Sewing:
Pity: 1.30 Babylon: 1.00 pm Ang
Diary: 2.35-4.00 Film: The Mos
4.30 Cartoon: In the New Fred
Barney Shute: 5.00 Portion of a V
12.15 Am The Bible for Today.

Uister

As London except: Starts 11.00 am
Simply Sewing, 11.30 am Cartoon Time
11.30-12.00 Link, 1.00 pm United
Challenge, 1.30 (Lunch) World, 2.00
Out of Town, 2.30-4.00 Film
The Cook Book, 4.30-5.00 (Lunch)
11.30 Bedtime, 11.40 Closesdown.

Westward

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00
Link, 10.00 Simply Sewing, 11.30 am
Cartoon Time, 11.30-12.00 Link
1.00 pm United, 1.30 (Lunch)
2.30-4.00 Film and Country News
2.45-4.00 Film, 4.00 Pm Cover, 5.25
The Cook Book, 5.30-6.00 (Lunch)
Seven Ages, 12.10 am Latin for Life
12.15 Weather, 12.15 Closesdown.

TELEVISION

boy friend (Stephen Moore) still
purses her
9.35 *That's Life: Another oblique*
look at our daily existence, by
team that sometimes rights
wrongs, other times is childishly
pity or genuinely witty
New 10.35 *Spies: The*
Perils of the Gen. Film about an
elite commando unit of the Israeli
army, exploring the relationship
between their beliefs as Jews and
their work as professional sol-
diers. 11.00 *Sixteen Up: How*
young people learn to cope with
living in love (n. 11.25 *Ser-*
geant Biko: Phil Silvers in an
army comedy; old but still fresh
and funny. 11.50 *Weather fore-*
cast.

BBC 1. VARIATIONS: BBC CYMRU
 Wales: 1.25 pm-1.50 *Duchedd* (Stated)
 Wales: 1.50 pm-1.55 *Yn ystod yr Olymپیاد*
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Mississippi. Perry and Stoenius
1965. *Edm. Finney* (who also
stars) makes a good job of direct-
ing this unusual comedy about a
writer who returns to his Nor-
thern roots to discover life's
meaning. With Liza Minnelli,
Colin Blakely. **BUNE Whitelaw.**
Ends at 10 am.

7.45 **Hart to Hart:** Crime story, with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers as a slendhing couple.

8.45 **News from ITN.**

9.00 **Sunday Night Thriller:** Dark comedy. Part one of *John Bowden* drama about a mother and a son (Stratford), her young son (Paul Spurrier) and the voices she thinks she hears calling to her.

10.00 **Agony:** Comedies about the agony of an 'agony' prior on radio. (Maudie Mann). She decides to give up her job to prepare for *motherhood*.

10.30 The South Bank Show: Portrait of the black American novelist Tom Morrison. Also, a preview of Peter Nicholls's *The Passion of Ray*, including interviews with Elton Atkins and Billie Whitelaw.

11.30 Oscar Peterson: Old and new favourites from the great jazz pianist. With Ray Charles, Ray Brown (bass), Barney Kessel (guitar) and Ray Eldridge (trumpet). 12.30 pm Close Richard Easton reads something by Thurber.

ray.† 1.27 pm The Choice is
 Yours. 1.32 Listen to Les† 2.6.
 Benny Greed† 3.02 Alan Dell
 4.02 Country Style. 4.30 Sing
 Something Simple† 5.02 Ten
 Best. 5.03 Charlie Chester. 7.02
 Treble Chance. 7.30 Marching and
 Waiting. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour
 9.02 Your 100 Best Tunes. 10.02
 Tony's† 10.30 Fiesta† 11.05 Tony and
 Browne† 12.01am-5.00† You and
 the Night and the Music.†

NOVA (11.30) Studio B15, 4.00 John
 Lennon (11.45) 5.02 Top 40, 7.00
 Alexis Korner, 8.00 Sounds of
 Jazz, 10.00 Close.
YHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 6.00 With
 Radio 2, 4.00 pm With
 Radio 1, 10.00-5.00 am With Radio
 2.
World Service
 BBC World Service can be received in
 the following areas: 1945-1946
 1947-1948 at the following times
 (GMT):
 7.00-7.30 am, 7.00 World News,
 7.30-7.55 am, 7.15 From Home,
 Our Own Correspondent, 7.45-8.00
 am, 8.00-8.15 am, 8.00 World News, 8.15-8.30

[illegible]

1.55 Come Here, 2.00 World News,
 3.30 Revised the British News, 4.15
 News in their Eyes, 5.15 Information,
 View of the Handcuffed, 5.30 World
 News, 6.00 News, 6.15 British News,
 The One, 3.30 Anything Goes, 4.00
 Newsdesk, 5.45 Living for Faith.

Anglia
As London receipt: Starts 9.05
11.30-12.00 Simple 1.00
11.30-12.00 Babylon 1.00
11.30-12.00 Andy 1.00
11.30-12.00 Weather 1.35
11.30-12.00 Farming 1.00
11.30-12.00 The Bible 1.00
11.30-12.00 Dangerous 1.00
11.30-12.00 The New Fred and Barney Show 5.00
11.30-12.00 portrait of a lady
11.30-12.00 Ludiham 1.30
11.30-12.00 Seven Ages
11.30-12.00 The Bible for Today

Westward

As London except: Starts 9:30 am-10:00
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tar 1:55 am and Country
2:15-4:00 Play Rk. Inc Cor. S.25
6:30 Cts Monobilly's Alriderz, 11:20
Satin Ann, 12:10 Lark Lark for Life
12:18 Weather, 12:13 Closedown.

Muhammad Ali and Freddie Starr. They are the guests in tonight's edition of Parkinson (BBC 1, 9.45)

Fun is poked at the disabled in the Arena film *Getting Away* from Sidney (BBC 2, 10.40). In bad taste? Not a bit of it. It is the victims themselves who do it—spastics, paraplegics, accident victims and the blind. I felt uncomfortable watching it, and that is precisely the aim of the exercise because I am probably one of the Sidneys of this world who treat the disabled with too much sympathy and not enough understanding. "We are all disabled in some way," says the film's title character, "and some one says in the film. It is spoken with heavy irony, as indeed is much else in the film because this is a profile of a theatre group made up of disabled people who call themselves Graese. There is vitriol, too, in their little show, and it singed my conscience.

●Did you see . . . (BBC 2, 5.00). In which, as a general rule, sensible people talk a lot of sense about television, is so much more to what is excellent and bad than that it deserves more than its miserly 35-minute slot. Another 15 minutes will help get rid of the generalizations that, occasionally, bedevil the series. Tonight's team of critics, lay and professional, will be discussing the Vanessa Redgrave film *Playing for Time*, the Arena film *Hazell Meets his Makers*, and ATV's detective thriller *Wolcott*. All this and Jeremy Isaacs, the boss of the BBC, in 35 minutes—what a bargain.

●Parkinson (BBC 1, 9.45) is going through one of its good patches. I thought Mr Parkinson was over-rexential in his handling of James Cagney and Pat O'Brien the other week, but the interviews made unforgettable television. There was, in fact, something historic about the encounter. Tonight's guests are a good boxer but bad poet (Muhammad Ali), and a variable impressionist but excellent comedian (Freddie Starr). Mr Ali has agreed with Mr Parkinson to alter his general image, but was chairman the floor on his inarticulacy. Now there has been a dramatic change in his fortunes, and no doubt tonight's interview will reflect that fact.

© Radio in general, and Radio 4 in particular, is strong in the spoken word today, what with a dramatization (by Terry James) of H. G. Wells's space fantasy *The First Men in the Moon* (2.30), a new audio film (by Peter Jackson) of *The Hobbit* (3.30), and as well as Wells' wrote it; the first part of a new adaptation (by Barry Campbell) of Hasek's *The Good Soldier Svejk*, with Richard Griffiths as the dog seller (2.30); a second hearing of *Tales from the Dark Continent* (3.55) which, for older listeners, includes the first of a series of readings of the *Discworld* and Geoffrey Wain's investigation into the phenomenon, we call sleep (10.15)... In music, I unhesitatingly select Ashkenazy and the English Chamber Orchestra playing Mozart's piano

PERSONAL CHOICE

Detail from The Temptation of St Anthony: It is discussed in The Mysteries of Hieronymus Bosch (BBC 2, 8.10)

● After watching Dr Nicholas Beaman offering his solutions to The Mysteries of Hieronymus Bosch (BBC 2, 8.10), I got the impression that, for him, explaining the reason for the Mona Lisa smile, would be like explaining the reason for the Tower of Babel. I hesitate to say, however, that his interpretation of Bosch's paintings— he deciphers the mysteries using the Bible as his Rosetta Stone— is a new one. I lack the necessary artistic perspective to make such a judgment. But once you swallow his initial premise that Bosch was a pious, orthodox and fierce Christian, obsessed with sin but certainly not with grotesque and depravity and that (to quote a phrase from the programme) "he was a man of his time, not a man of the gullibility of the people around him", then the clouds of enigma that shroud those brilliant and disturbing images begin to lift. An absorbing film, marred only by an excess of contemporary padding.

● I don't think that any writer about television has noted the existence of This is the Day (BBC 1, 12.15). It is time somebody did. Having watched two of these religious programmes, designed to help viewers to worship at home, I must say I find them unprecedented in style and content. Our armchairs become pews, each Bible, candle, bread, and flowers. On screen, a constant flow of pictures—everyday objects, man-made and Nature-created, a picture book of this wondrous world of ours. Then come the letters, from the dying who don't despair, from those in desperate need of our prayers. The non-ecclesiastical voices throughout are calm and comforting. There is profound wisdom in the simple things they say, and the troubled mind cannot but benefit from them. There are clear indications in This is the Day that television has at last found a way of bridging the gap between those who believe and those who can't but who both could.

● The Life of a Great Sinner, Radio 3's profile of Dostoevsky (8.00), which prepares us for this week's readings from The Eternal Husband (beginning tomorrow night, Radio 3, 10.05) has, contributions from a gaggle of experts, a multi-national cast who make their points with commendable brevity and a non-pretentious degree of clarity. I particularly liked Professor Simon Karlinsky's advice to his Dostoevsky students to "imagine a person in which every word is burning a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit". His findings are by Alan Dobie, and the linking is by Alex de Jonge, of New College, Oxford, whose microphone style does not, I am afraid, make for relaxed listening.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE;
(c) REPEAT.

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Collecting

Queen Anne sat here

Because antique collecting is a highly individual pastime there is unlikely to be general agreement on when the so-called "golden age of English furniture" existed. However, because the outstanding name in English furniture is Chippendale, whose influence hangs heavy over the middle of the eighteenth century, there is a danger that those unfamiliar with the subject will automatically equate the two. Although Chippendale was a practical cabinet maker and ran a large workshop his fame rests more on his publishing activities.

I would suggest that the accolade more properly belongs some 40 years earlier at the start of the century when a group of largely anonymous craftsmen used walnut to produce furniture universally known as Queen Anne, although they outlived that monarch. To concentrate the argument within the scope of one article it makes sense to consider not the top quality pieces which were by definition unrepresentative but the run of the mill pieces that we can still see, if not afford today. Chairs are both common and useful, so let us take a canter through the broad development of the English chair and see on what basis the Queen Anne stands out from its rivals.

Glorious though the seventeenth century joined or wainwright chair can be, one would have to be a very single minded oak collector to maintain that a bolt upright rectangular structure of rails pinned together to support panels could possibly be described as the ultimate in elegance and use—charm yes, refinement yes, but little else. The Great Fire of London, that unique marketing opportunity which occurred in 1666 and for which the modern furniture industry

would doubtless give its eye teeth, destroyed, without loss of life, nearly all furniture by far the richest community in the country. Yet the newer designs resulted only in the increase of turning and of substitution of leather for panels; true, the design was lighter but whether bobbin or spirally turned it was still basically square. Even when high backs and canework became the fashion in the 1690s the chairs were, for all their ornamentation, still rectangular and the design lacked any cohesive quality. The top rail was obviously a separate member and the lower portion of the splat, which thrust forward, supports the lumbar region while the arrangement of the top accommodates the shoulders, and to ensure comfort the sides of the back are carefully rounded—a feature that did not return for 140 years when the Victorian balloon back emerged. (Interestingly on television not long ago a distinguished academic ergonomist displayed the results of his labours towards the perfect chair: in fact he had rediscovered the wheel for he had merely produced an ugly version of this chair.)

The practically minded will appreciate that it is a difficult chair to make, the cabriole legs especially, for any working marks one makes are cut away in the course of construction and to get the back at just the right curve demands a good eye. The balance, too, is good: it does not tip over backwards easily. It is extremely well made, mortise and tenons are used though not always pegged—a return to traditional oak methods of the tall back chairs a decade or so earlier.

The chair was expensive in materials, too. The back is one

piece of walnut, so even if one made several at one time out of a large plank—not too common with walnut—the waste of this valuable wood was considerable. Close examination would reveal other points of quality. The splat is bevelled at the edge so that it gives a thin clear edge from the most forward angle of view and the grain on the two front legs normally matches. Once the eye becomes attuned to the wide divergence of qualities several can make a fascinating grouping round a table.

Gradually over a period of 20 years design changed and moved towards the stiffer and squarer design we associate with Chippendale. The change was slow and given enough examples one can see the decline. It was of course a matter of fashion—what one generation likes the next almost by definition, disregards as unacceptable. However, seen in modern terms the move towards the mid-eighteenth century designs looks like a classic marketing and profit improvement exercise. Subject to a rigorous cost analysis the Queen Anne chair is made square and cut down in size to save timber. The lack of curve saves labour, as does the substitution of square chamfered legs for cabrioles. The shortfall in comfort and line is compensated for by cheap fretted splats and the odd carved motif. The great authority, R. W. Symonds, in his classic *English Furniture from Charles II to George II*, a work yet to be surpassed, is clearly in sympathy with this view. Discussing the much prized Chippendale ribbon backs he says, "A bow of wooden ribbons may actually support a person's back but it is an artistic heresy to fashion a silk ribbon in wood and make it fulfil a

structural purpose which, in the material it imitates it could never do."

Hepplewhite, and later Sheraton and the other neoclassical designers, made some beautifully balanced chairs, but not at the run of the mill level; there, if anything, they were worse than Chippendale. Smaller, squarer and even less generous, they finally evolve into the relative comfort of the Regency dining chair which



First moves towards the Queen Anne chair (left) and an English version, about 1710.

makes no pretence at anything more than prosperous solidity. In fact, if there is a rival for the Golden Age it is more likely to come from the rococo chairs—the balloon backs—of the early Victorian period which do at least look well. A fascinating aspect of the lack of recognition of "Queen Anne" walnut chairs is that until the last year or so single chairs could be bought in the £150-£200 range quite easily.

Now the price has risen to £250-£400 while anything of quality can cost a great deal more. Indeed, a fine pair was sold at Christie's last autumn for £19,800, but then they had an excellent provenance, an important but extraneous element in pricing.

Do not despair. Although they have been exported in their hundreds to the United States, where they naturalize as Philadelphia, they can still

occasionally be found at £100-£150 in country sales, heavily bleached or covered in French polish. They are well worth the effort to clean and cherish, for even the humblest has a touch of quality from that Golden Age.

John Steel

The author is editorial director and co-founder of the Antique Collectors' Club.

Chess

Auto-mating

The state of computerized chess-playing machines now coming on the market in America and Europe is a direct result of active research over the past 30 years, but their origins lie even further back.

In 1942 the late Alan Turing expressed an interest in that subject to me and a year or so after the war ended I believe he did in fact construct such a machine in collaboration with my good friend Donald Michie, who is happily still with us and for some years has been professor in charge of machine unit research at Edinburgh University.

However, great mathematical genius though Turing was, his chess was weak and I understand that his chess machine was rudimentary.

Great advances have been made since then and the former world champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, said it will not be long before the chess computer attains master strength. I am sceptical about this, because if we can make a chess computer that originally off its own bat as it were, then we can make all computers do likewise and I can sit back in my armchair watching the computer compose this article. (I spurn any ignoble suggestion that this is virtually what I do now.)

A year or so ago a colleague brought back a chess-playing machine from America. I tested it for a couple of weeks and found that while definite advances had been made it was not of sufficient calibre to win against a first class amateur, let alone a master player.

Psychologically it was a dangerous experiment. I began to have delusions of grandeur, imagining myself to be the equal, at least, of Alekhine and Capablanca or of Fischer and Karpov. But after handing back the machine it soon became clear that no such party existed.

That machine was a silent one. Recently I examined a vocal chess-playing machine and was astonished, almost alarmed, at the great progress that has been made during the past year.

Press one button and it reveals its intentions. Press another and you make it reply faster. If it loses it says so in sepulchral tones.

There is a big new section called Book Openings from which you can choose the opening or defence you want to play. This section is endowed with the latest opening lines.

Another interesting section consists of 64 great games selected from the play of world champions. You are given the names of the players, the opening and other information such as where the game was played. Then you are allowed two tries at guessing the moves and are given them if you fail to guess correctly, with marks awarded in accordance with your success.

The classes of play range from beginner to expert and it will certainly be a boon to all those who cannot find a regular over-the-board opponent.

It is by no means perfect,

which is perhaps just as well. Like all machines of its kind it lays too much emphasis on the value and power of a capture. It tends to go astray against the more sophisticated type of opening. Most irritatingly of all, it takes too long over moves in the higher classes, even though it may be dead lost. I had one game for example, that lasted for more than seven hours and the machine was quite lost for the last three.

Still, I must absolve it from any charge of chicanery. It is an honest opponent, unlike another type of machine that a friend of mine has which has the engaging habit of offering a draw in a lost position.

As an example of the sort of chess one gets with the machine I give a game I won against it when it was in one of the higher classes, Class 5, which was supposed to be excellent and should have taken an average of six minutes a move. I should perhaps explain that the machine has two internal clocks that measure the time taken by both machine and its opponent. Press a button and you can find out what these times are.

White: E.G. Black: Machine. English Opening.

1 P-Q4 N-K3 2 Q-B2 P-Q3 3 N-B3 P-K3 4 P-Q4 B-Q2 5 Q-N3 B-N3 6 P-K4 P-K4 7 P-Q3 B-N3 8 P-Q4

(Position after 10 P-Q4)



10... P-P A critical point in the game has been reached. After 10... N-KP: I intended playing 11 Q-B2, P-B4; 12 P-P, P-P; 13 O-O, Q-K2; 14 P-KN4, N-Q3; 15 P-B5, with entertaining complications; but clearly many other variations are possible here.

11 N-P R-K1 12 Q-N O-K2 12 P-B3 N-N 13 B-K2 P-Q3

He, or rather it, wants to centralize its QR without having to worry about its QRP.

13 O-O QR-Q1 14 QR-B1 Q-K4

Exchanging over to an inferior endgame; but against other moves I intended playing P-N4.

17 Q-Q P-Q 18 R-Q1 R-K3 7

A bad move; but it is difficult to find a good one here; perhaps K-B1 is best.

19 B-B1 P-B3 20 B-B3 R-P 20 R-Q2 QR-K1 21 Q-R3

Now that White has gained control of the Q file he threatens Black with a break-through on the wing.

22 R-K1 Q1 23 B-P P-R 24 P-N5 P-B3 25 P-B3 R-P 26 R-Q2

Threatening RxN and forcing the win of material however Black plays.

27 R-B3 28 R-Rch N-R 29 R-Q2 R-K1 30 R-Q8 P-N5

Here on looked at first R-R7, then B-Q2, P-R3 and P-B4 and then back to P-R3 and P-KN3. It spent 29 minutes 44 seconds on this hopeless procedure and so on for another 10 moves before I mated it.

Harry Golombek

Good Food Guide

Whiggish pleasures

Before Christmas (6.12.80) attention was drawn in this column to a few new or at least unfamiliar restaurants in the suburbs south of the Thames. London is so large and within its own sprawling borders regionally conscious that everyone travelling to another point of its compass is apt to miss the Livingstone or Capello Cook, if he consents to make the journey at all. So to forestall resentment, this article goes north, either within or just beyond a statutory taxi distance from Charing Cross.

It is natural, at least in terms of London's gastronomy, to begin, when one wants to begin, in the suburbs, where a century or two has gone full circle from outlying country village through inner-city slum to an inverted-commas "village" whose inhabitants choose their desirable canal-side residences in preference to others they might enjoy further out by the banks of the Ouse or the Grand Union. There are at least a couple of Islington restaurants in the current *Good Food Guide* that draw their customers from far outside the district, and I suspect that perhaps forever doomed to being Camden Passage's second string.

But on that basis, there is much to be said for this airy luxurious and pictorially Hanoverian memorial to the royal but democratic Victorian Duke Frederick Whiggish, whose opinions inclined him to the pastimes of singing, gardening, and the collection of bibles, clocks and humming-birds.

Jean-Louis Pollet is the current chef, and his pleasant pâté, deep-fried mushrooms, fruits de mer à l'armoricaine, pepper steaks, and lamb chops with dill sauce have all saved pleasure—though he needs to be more rigorous about serving hot food. Besides, fair prices are charged for good food, and final bills seem reasonable—after all, nothing keeps a restaurant's prices down like the existence of an expensive, admittedly superior competitor a few doors away.

Both Frederick's and Carrier's initially contributed their mites or acolytes to the formation of Alain and Joyce Beresford's Four Seasons in Bayswater. The cooking has been variously praised and reproved during the year—the couple seem to have a poor judgment of what can wisely be cooked and served in a confined space, with the kitchen not enclosed. All the meals described by experienced *Guide* inspectors have included something excellent: moules au beurre de Provence (£2.25) on one occasion, dark-pink magret de canard with a nutty madeira sauce on another—and the lemon syllabub for once tasted balanced, and could easily have been Elizabeth David's recipe.

In Capability Brown, too, since Ann Tebbott's founder-chef Lawrence Elbert left, quality control has been the problem—understandably enough, given the length and ambition of the menu. But David Smart (also a graduate of the Connaught Hotel kitchens) is offering in this verdant green ground-floor and basement restaurant on the margins of Hampstead.

As in so many places—in France as well as Britain—that take the nouvelle cuisine style seriously, temperance is on whether you are temperamentally inclined to be impressed by high achievement or dismayed by near-misses, or vice versa.

Happily, the past year's reports to the *Guide* have celebrated more of the former than of the latter. "How Mr Smart manages to make such a

light dish out of scampi stuffed with crab, breadcrumbed and fried in a few new or at least unfamiliar restaurants in the suburbs south of the Thames. London is so large and within its own sprawling borders regionally conscious that everyone travelling to another point of its compass is apt to miss the Livingstone or Capello Cook, if he consents to make the journey at all. So to forestall resentment, this article goes north, either within or just beyond a statutory taxi distance from Charing Cross.

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Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Alice in wonderment

Lewis Carroll was obviously a twentieth-century artist locked in a previous century scarcely of his making and, except through the discipline of mathematics, scarcely of his understanding. His Alice books were written yesterday and will be as sustaining the draftee tomorrow. This questionable academic, searching for his Lolita with his transcendentalist chaste camera, was clearly a man born out of synchronization. Life was designed not to hear him, except in an almost indecent minor key.

His brain was totally before its time and out of space. He wrote Freudian before Freud had ever thought of it, and he was Dadaist before Tristan Tzara had ever been born. And at times his literary style—think of the poem *Jabberwocky*—preceded the linguistic experiments of James Joyce in *Finnegans Wake*.

Why am I telling you this? Because Elizabeth Swados's new dramatized cantata, *Alice in Concert*, now at Joseph Papp's public theatre, made me think of Carroll very deeply. We have here a spirit extended, and a spirit explained. Well, not quite explained. While Swados magnificently catches most of Carroll's divine minor key, she does not quite make it to the end.

The approach to Alice, in theatrical terms, is everything. So many people, in plays, films and ballet, have tried to theatricalize Carroll, usually with only middling success. Where most of them fail is in catching Carroll's desultory and wonderful cosmic humour. A decade or so ago André Gregory and his Manhattan project precisely caught the wild craziness of Alice, and here, in her musical version, Swados once more picks up the master's logical philosophy of illogic. Everything must be quaint.

Nothing can seem to be what it seems. It is the unthinking genius of the young, Martha Graham said we are all born with the spark of genius, but

almost all of us lose it as we grow up. Carroll did not.

Miss Swados, in what is surely her best musical to date, throws Alice on to the stage like a lost but imminently cheerful doll. She wanders through her dream world, sometimes down the black holes of space, sometimes through the looking-glass of her own perception. Miss Swados perceives Alice as a little girl adapting to the ambiguous enmities of life: a good humour that Carroll might have wished upon himself.

The first part of *Alice in Concert* is sublime; the second is also sublime but not, if grammarians will allow me to qualify a definite, as sublime as the first. In the first part Swados is dealing with fun and irony and her music takes on a special jokey jauntiness—and it is absolutely thrilling, ending with a marvellously contrived lobster quadrille flowing out into the almost psychedelic first act finale, ending in mushrooms.

The second part becomes a trifle, a dangerous trifle, more sentimental. The summer glow has faded and Miss Swados strikes, too often, a calculated lyrical note. But the whole thing is essentially a wonderment.

The fabulous success is not simply Swados' alone. The team of actors, under Joe Papp's own direction, are sensational. Despite this the work had difficult gestation. André Serban directed an earlier version and started this revision until replaced by Papp himself. Where Serban ended and Papp started is anyone's guess, but it works out as a seamless pleasure.

This is precisely the kind of cast one would like—were one not a drama critic—to pick up at the stage door and take to party. They are adorable without any nit-picking reservations. They are so good that to name any single one of them would be discriminatory, and therefore possibly illegal. However, one can safely fail to mention, certainly not to ignore,

Meryl Streep, playing Alice with such unaffected brilliance that although a peer among peers, you would have to elect her queen. Her lopsided and offside remarks, her radiant cheerfulness, her genius for being rather than playing at one moment, and then playing rather than being at the next, are extraordinary.

Streep and Swados, totally helped here by wonderful actors and musicians alike, make this Alice into the kind of magic dream that you will really enjoy. It has mystery, sex and fun—when last were you offered that combination?

Papp and his Shakespearians are having a great time this year. His marvellous production of the Gilbert and Sullivan *Pirates of Penzance*, first given in Central Park and reviewed last summer, has now arrived with expected success on Broadway. The cast, Kevin Kline, Linda Ronstadt, Rex Smith, Estelle Parsons and George Rose, is the same, except that Estelle Parsons replaces the unavailable Patricia Routledge.

In a sense this Broadway version is so different in attitude, if not in spirit, from Sullivan's opera that it seems almost cheeky that they have taken its name. The musical should simply be called *Pirates!*, if only to explain the various ambiguities of time and approach that the production utilizes in its transformation from a cult opera into a Broadway hit.

A special air of freshness informs the entire production. The masterminds are obviously the director, Wilford Leach, and William Elliott, who has adapted the music and conducts the score. What they have done—and it is miraculous—has been to place between ourselves and the work that distance which, in the theatre, often leads to enchantment. Elliott's score is delightful—it catches the spirit of Sullivan and bubbles with it.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, at six years of age a toddler among dance com-

panies, is in splendid form. It opened its winter season at the City Center with a gala performance that included Geoffrey Holder's *Bele*, George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* and ended with a new production of Michael Folkins's *Scheherazade*.

Bele, with choreography, music and costumes all by Holder himself, was a Creole court ritual, full of bounce, flourish and marvellous. This was the kind of thing that the Katherine Graham company would do occasionally, and its mixture of folk and classic ballet is here, once more, most beguiling.

Concerto Barocco was for long something of a signature piece for the Harlem dancers, but whereas they once danced it well, they now dance it splendidly.

On the face of it the company's production of *Scheherazade* seemed surprising—if only because part of its initial frisson back in 1910 was supposed to be the spectacle of white bare ladies being illicitly and lustfully loved by supposed negro slaves. Just the kind of subject that might give the all-black company a certain credibility problem.

The London Festival Ballet has *Scheherazade* in its performing repertoire since 1950, and it is possibly more accurate than the one staged here for Harlem by the great Ballet Russe dancer, Frederic Franklin. However, Franklin has managed to make a virtue out of that and to provide it with a great deal more creative drive and vigour. I do not like some of the particularly spectacular jumps given to the golden slave, but they are certainly appropriate.

Virginia Johnson made a voluptuously imperious Zobeide while Eddie Shelman was all sinuous flow as her secret lover, the golden slave. It was also a special pleasure to have Franklin himself, bumbling so nicely as the treacherous and avaricious chief eunuch. It made a great start to the season.

Small Times competition results



Cartoon competition

This posed big problems for *Small Times* judges because of the enthusiasm and ingenuity shown by our readers. The winning entry (printed above) was sent in by Joanne Trehan (aged 11) of Bristol and she will receive a £20 book token.

The judges also felt that the following six entries deserved a special mention:

Jon by Sophie Coutouvidis (aged 6) For *Times* at Sea by Edward Usick (aged 11) Magic Show by Geeta Narlikar (aged 10) Sausage Man by Paul Mason (aged 11) Apple Wars by Malcolm Smith (aged 10) For the Birds by Martin Weston Jr (aged 14) David Perry (aged 7) untitled

Great Uncle Septimus

Hugo Daleworthy would publicly like to thank all those readers who so generously helped him to discover the secret of his late great-uncle's will. The response was overwhelming. He is sorry that he cannot reply to all your letters personally, but he is at present in the Bahamas. On his return he intends to take a course in private detection.

However, Ivah Johnson (aged 14) will receive an Entex electronic game as his correct solution was the first to be pulled out of the sack on January 6th.

For those who are still baffled by great-uncle Septimus's puzzle, here are the answers:

Clue A = bonfire
Clue B = cabbage
Clue C = Mr Dix
Clue D = sundial
Clue E = draw straight lines to link white dots in clues A and D, and in clues B and C. Where lines cross is the prize square.
Answer: F4

Christmas carol competition

This demanded lots of creative talent and we were impressed with your enterprise. Two carols, although very different, share first prize and three album tokens will be sent to Helen Cruickshank and Alison Brydon (aged 13) from Edinburgh for "Sing" and to Bryony Dean (aged 13) from Surrey for "Salutation".

KNIGHT'S (Chess) FILE

What happened in Merano?

All of the Candidates' final games, plus Knight's File No. 2, out today. Monthly—Annual Sub. £12. Freeport, Richmond, Surrey Bridge West Yorks. HX6 4BR. Telephone Halifax 52448 or 02726 even & weekdays

TAKING YOUR CAR ABROAD

A record total of 580,000 British motorists took their cars abroad in 1980, about 15 per cent more than in the previous year, but the uncertain economic outlook is producing few bets on what will happen in the coming season.

The 1980 boom, which took many in the travel trade by surprise, can be attributed to two main factors. One was the price cutting war among cross-Channel ferry operators, which meant that bargain fares were there for the taking.

The other was the strength of the pound against the franc, making the Continent more attractive than for some years. France, for instance, not so long ago regarded as one of the dearest countries for British holidaymakers, has suddenly become, in relative terms, cheap.

France was by far the most popular destination for British motorists. According to a survey by the Automobile Association based on requests for routes, 46 per cent of drivers chose France, with Italy the next most popular country (the choice of only 10.9 per cent) and Spain third (10.8 per cent).

In 1970, by the same AA yardstick, Spain was the most popular country (26 per cent), with France and Italy joint second (19 per cent). By 1975 France had emerged as the clear favourite (nearly 33 per cent), with Spain dropping to 19 per cent and Italy to 12 per cent.

The underlying explanation seems simply to be that for economic reasons motorists from Britain are not travelling so far. Italy and Spain are 200 miles from the nearest British port, whereas Austria, which in 1970 was the fourth most popular destination, has since dropped to sixth place, accounting for only 2 per cent of holidays.

Local factors have also played a part. Terrorist incidents, strikes and outbreaks of legionnaires' disease have turned people away from Spain, while Italy has acquired an unfortunate reputation for thefts from cars, with handbags actually being snatched through windows.

Another trend revealed by requests for AA routes is that British drivers are tending to keep off continental motorways. The demand for non-motorway routes rose by 50 per cent last year, the main impetus being the desire to avoid the motorway tolls levied in France and Italy.

The prospects for 1981 will obviously depend on the balance of economic considerations. The likelihood of an over-optimistic recession would logically suggest that the number of continental motorway holidays will, at best, stabilize at about the 1980 level.

If ferry prices stay competitive, however, and continue to produce favourable exchange rates, the picture could be different. Certainly, early bookings have been notably buoyant, even in areas of high unemployment like the North-East.

People may be even more determined to take a holiday abroad to get away from bad times at home and there is already evidence that lump-sum redundancy payments are being earmarked for this purpose.

Preparing the ground
The first rule for those intending to venture abroad by car is to plan carefully, starting with the vehicle itself, which should be thoroughly checked and serviced shortly before leaving. Many motorists neglect to do this, with embarrassing and sometimes costly results.

Headlamp beams should be adjusted for driving on the right hand side of the road. Although this adjustment is not compulsory for visitors, it is desirable and the conversion is easily made. But remember to change back on returning to Britain.

Spare parts can be two to three times more expensive on the Continent and may not be readily available, so it is sensible to take a selection with you. The motorizing organizations, and some garages, will hire kits of the commonly used parts, to which should be added extra headlamp bulbs (obligatory in some countries) and an emergency windscreens.

A red warning triangle, which can also be hired, is a legal requirement in most European countries and must be set up on the road if the car is immobilized through an accident or breakdown. A first-aid kit is useful anywhere and obligatory in Austria. The GB nationality plate must be displayed at the back of the car and on a caravan or trailer.

Cars must not be overloaded, for safety reasons and because this can incur fines and invalidate insurance. Luggage on a roof rack should be properly secured and neatly packed: reserve the rack for lighter, flatter items and cover with a sheet of canvas or leathercloth.

Insurance
The rule is to ensure adequate cover for all countries to be visited and the insurance company or broker will advise on this. The trouble is that minimum requirements vary from one country to another. The International Motor Insurance Certificate, better known as the Green Card, is no longer a legal requirement in the European Community but it does secure fuller cover. It is still essential in most countries outside the Community.

For Spain insurance should be extended to include a bail bond in the event of an accident, the Spanish authorities can impound the car and detain the driver. The bond is a guarantee that a cash deposit will be paid to the court as security for bail. Bonds are issued by motor insurers.

The motorizing organizations and others offer insurance against the car breaking down, with provision for getting the vehicle back to Britain if necessary and for meeting personal expenses, such as loss of luggage and medical bills. The AA 5-Star scheme will cover a family of four in an average saloon for 17 days for about £41.

Points of law

Essential documents, which must be carried, are the driving licence and vehicle registration form. Some countries, including Spain and those in the Eastern block, require an international driving permit (obtainable from the motorizing organizations, whether or not you are a member).

In Italy a British driving licence is acceptable only if accompanied by an Italian translation. In several European countries, the minimum age for driving a car is 18, as against 17 in Britain.

Under European Community law a vehicle with 10 or more seats is regarded as a commercial, and that includes minibuses. It means that the driver must be over 21 and keep a log of driving hours, which are limited by the vehicle's tachograph fitted to the engine.

Speed limits on the Continent follow a similar pattern to those in Britain: one for built-up areas, one for non-motorways and a third for motorways. West Germany has the only country where (on motorways only) you can drive as fast as you like. Most continental countries require seat belts to be worn and some have laws banning children from the front seats of cars.

Drinking and driving regulations vary but are most severe in Scandinavia. In Sweden and Finland it is an offence to drive with any alcohol in the blood and the penalties can include imprisonment.

On the road
Driving on the right hand side of the road presents less difficulty than might be thought, but special care should be taken when negotiating roundabouts and one-way streets. In France and some other countries traffic joining a main road from the right can have priority.

On the busier roads the flow of traffic makes it almost impossible to stray into the wrong lane but driving along a quiet country lane it is easy to forget where you are and lapse back into British habits. One tip in the countryside is always to park the car facing the direction of the traffic so that you start from a correct position.

The motorist abroad has to come to terms with the metric system. When buying petrol, remember that four and a half litres is roughly equal to a gallon. There are usually two grades of fuel available, super, which has a higher octane rating than the standard, and regular or normal, which corresponds to two star. Petrol on the Continent is invariably more expensive.

Maps and guides
Maps need to be clear and up-to-date and for the second requirement it is better to buy paper maps, which are frequently revised and can be thrown away at the end of the season, than a road atlas. Among reliable sources for continental motorizing maps are the Automobile Association, George Philip, Michelin, especially for France, and Hallwag.

The AA's Motoring in Europe and the RAC's Continental Handbook are two standard works containing hotel and garage recommendations, country by country, as well as information on local driving conditions, road signs, town plans and many other topics.

They can be supplemented by the Michelin guides—red for hotels and restaurants and green for general tourist information—and the Anglo-American Fodor series, which is updated each year.

Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent



Duncan Mill

Happy crossings!

The recent Egon Ronay report, likening ferry travel to being in "a colossal water-borne bus station" with constant queuing, unhelpful and unenthusiastic staff, is exaggerated. It is still possible to have an enjoyable Channel crossing by boat (no one, surely, enjoys a hovercraft), as witness my idyllic crossing on a Sunday morning last July from Cherbourg by Townsend Thoresen's Free Enterprise II, an old boat usually reserved for shorter crossings.

Admittedly I had the only deckchair in sight on the rear sun-deck, and dared not move from it for the whole journey. But the sun shone all the way, we were accompanied by a regular of sailing boats, and it was a delightful trip. Enjoyment depends more on the weather than the facilities of the boat.

Here are some points to help to make your ferry crossing as trouble-free and enjoyable as possible. First, book your crossing carefully. Check up-to-date road maps to choose the route which will suit you best. Do not rely on a travel agent's clerk to find the best buy. Look at the brochures and compare the prices of different sailings yourself. Tariff structures are complicated, but there are still bargains in off-peak travel and excursion fares. You sail more happily if you know you are not paying through the nose.

Only lines with comparatively few vessels (like Brittany Ferries) publish the details of the ship against the sailing time. But if you are not booking long in advance, a telephone call to the ferry operators' port office should give you some guidance on which boats will be operating when services. It makes a considerable difference on longer crossings. Going Newhaven-Dieppe, for instance, prefer the British Sealink to the French vessels, and generally opt for bigger, newer boats wherever possible.

Arrive by the report time stated on your ticket. Everyone has heard of late arrivals rushing over the gangplank a minute before the boat casts off, but sailings really do sometimes leave ahead of schedule. Half an hour before scheduled departure, you could still be in time only to wave goodbye from the shore.

Fill up with discount petrol before reporting at the harbour. The differential makes it well worth while. Buy newspapers before going on board also. There is always a shortage. Note where you leave your car. Doors, staircases and parking areas are identified and only require a mental note. On Townsend-Thoresen's new Blue Riband vessels on the Dover-Calais run they identify the car decks with big symbols (an elephant, a whale) in the hope that children will be better at noticing where they have parked than their parents have ever been.

Have the luggage you want for the trip ready to hand in the car, and convenient to the passenger doors. Impatient crewmen do not wait for scurrying in the boot before pulling the next vehicle up close behind.

The luggage for the trip should ideally include all the food you need for the journey. Catering standards on the ferries are almost as laudable as Ronay said, and vary more according to which crew happens to be

on duty than which company or vessel you are travelling with. At the very least take flasks of tea, which no ferries are good at. On P & O boats, for example, tea and coffee is only available from machines, and tastes criticized as the world's most expensive sea crossing. Other companies have served me cups (often cardboard or plastic) that were even worse.

Also take up enough coats and impedimenta to secure the seats you want while you are away visiting the shops, lavatories or cafeterias, or striding the decks. Drivers are well advised to take the appropriate red Michelin guide with them as well, to study exit routes from the continental port and to research possible first-night stops.

On a crowded boat bag seats first (smoking and non-smoking areas are signed, so are quiet lounges, and you do well to avoid seats near doorways, by which means people will be lurching about with drinks, near video games and one-arm bandits, or in the area which is to be used as a cinema if you do not want to see the film), and then head for the duty-free shop. Wine and sherry are bad buys. Seaside, Sealink and Hoverlloyd offer the keenest prices. P & O are particularly dear for most lines. Thirdly get in the restaurant or cafeteria queue if you must.

Do not travel on an empty stomach. The ferry boats are much less conducive to sea-sickness than they used to be, but if you are a poor sailor a diet of dry bread and tinned apples helps. Better still, take travel sickness pills, but avoid all alcohol, especially if drinking.

Crews distribute sickness bags less liberally than they used to do. Ask for one in advance if you fear there is any danger you may need it. To obtain picnic provisions for the return journey from the Continent, the best addresses are: Boulogne—Derrière, 1 Grande Rue (cooked meat); Lugand, 9 Grande Rue (cakes and sweets); Olivier, 43-45 rue Thiers (cheese). Calais—Maison du Fromage (Guilain), Place d'Armes. Dieppe—Suriel, 22 Grande Rue, and Olivier, 16 rue St Jacques. Le Havre—Lefevre, Place Gambetta.

Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Offers to tempt the Channel traveller

This year looks like being another good one for the cross-Channel traveller, with the ferry lines vying for his custom by making all kinds of tempting offers.

The 20-odd miles between Britain and Europe, long criticized as the world's most expensive sea crossing, may not run quite so red with the blood of price-cutting ferry operators as it did last year, but the struggle continues.

The broad prognosis is that operators will try to hold fares for peak season traffic at 15 to 20 per cent above last year's, but with plenty of reduced fares available in the shoulder and off-peak periods. In these circumstances it could pay the traveller to wait before making his summer booking, while rival companies work out how they are going to attract him to their ships.

The Government's refusal to allow a return to the price-fixing pool which obtained until last year leaves the way open for another bout of price cutting.

The two biggest operators—British Rail Sealink and Townsend Thoresen—each of whom claimed credit for that end of price fixing at the end of 1979, had to share the blame a year later when it was clear that from their point of view, the whole thing had gone wrong.

What it will cost
One-way fares to the Continent for two people and a medium-sized car (Ford Cortina) on a summer weekday (August 6). Maximum and minimum are shown where fares vary at different times of the day.

Hull-Rotterdam (North Sea Ferries)
Felixstowe-Zeebrugge (Townsend Thoresen)
Dover-Calais (Townsend Thoresen)
Dover-Boulogne (P & O Ferries)
Dover-Ostend (Sealink)
Folkestone-Boulogne (Sealink)
Portsmouth-Cherbourg (Townsend Thoresen)
Portsmouth-St Malo (Brittany Ferries)
Southampton-Le Havre (P & O)
Newhaven-Dieppe (Sealink)
Plymouth-Roscoff (Brittany Ferries)

£99.60
£50-£58
£35-£58
£40-£55.50
£35-£58
£35-£53
£72
£80.15
£75-£82
£86-£73
£80.15

peak fares for car travellers increased by about 15 per cent, but many fares away from the peak period actually lower than last year. At the same time P & O said that should more price cutting set in it would be prepared to meet rival offers.

Sealink, meanwhile, was keeping its powder dry. It is Sealink which holds the key to 1981 both because it has substantial capacity in its big new ships and because last year it lost a big slice of its market share to Townsend Thoresen which it wants to get back.

Its main way of doing this will be to offer new cheap fares from Folkestone to Boulogne and Calais, and from Dover to Boulogne and Dunkirk, and new cheap fares in the peak period, but many fares away from the peak period actually lower than last year. At the same time P & O said that should more price cutting set in it would be prepared to meet rival offers.

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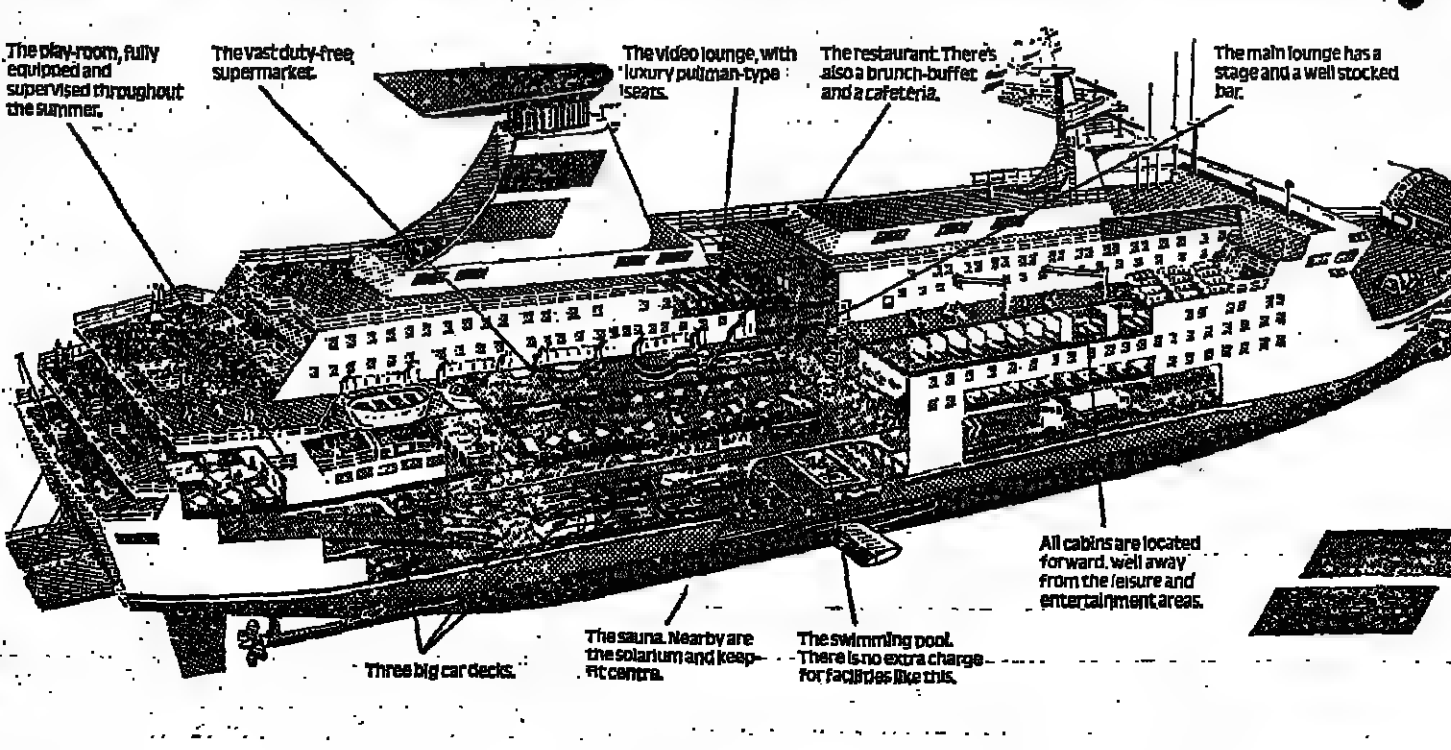
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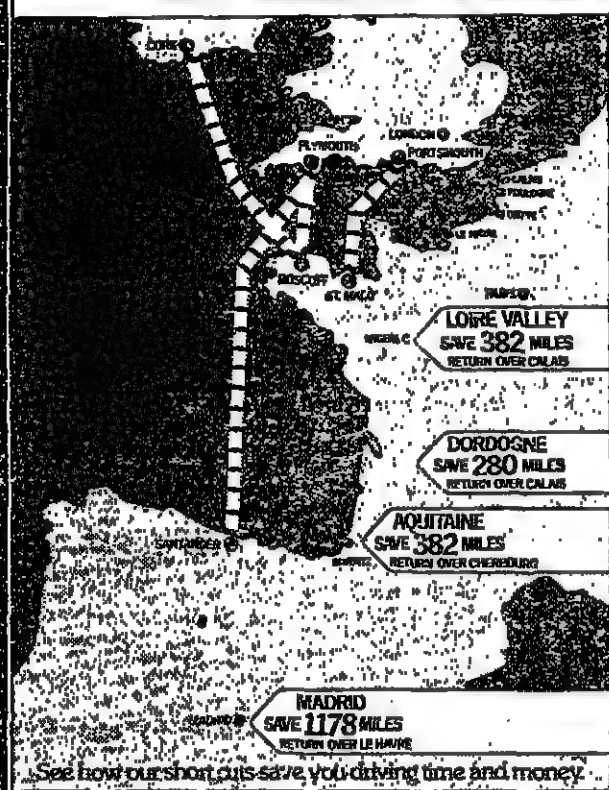
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ANGERS	123	213	314	215	194	177	475	
LA ROCHELLE	204	276	428	338	309	285	394	
PERIGUEUX	329	422	469	373	344	328	354	
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Motoring through the Low Countries to Munich, driving in Scandinavia...

Autobahns show Britain the way

From the Belgian coast at Ostend to Munich in southern Germany, about 350 miles, must be one of Europe's fastest routes on motorways and the cost is low as there are no tolls on German motorways. However, there is the chance of a long hold-up because of multiple accidents—particularly in bad weather.

There is a choice of Dover-Ostend ferries, which normally take just over four hours on the sea journey. A good idea would be to arrive early in the morning and get away on the motorway system by way of Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Cologne or Frankfurt, or alternatively by way of Antwerp avoiding Brussels and Liège.

If you want to see something of Holland on the way, take either the Sealink overnight Harwich-Holland ferry which will have you on the road after breakfast, or better still the Olau line from Sheerness to Flushing at the mouth of the Scheldt and right on the motorway network.

You could visit the bulb

fields (in April and May) slightly to the north, near Amsterdam and all its museums, and Haarlem and the Keukenhof botanical gardens. You can eat herrings from a street stall, make the canal tour, and visit the fortress town of Naarden. In Holland 700 restaurants offer a tourist menu for 13.75fl (less than £3) and have a special sign.

For drivers wishing to stick to the more direct Belgian routes, Bruges is well worth a visit, and could be fitted in on the way to Antwerp.

Once across the frontier, the German Autobahn administration issues a comprehensive leaflet called Tanken und Rasten which gives information and maps showing where all the service areas are, what they provide, and telephone numbers. This can be picked up at any motorway service area. Even blood plasma is available at every stop.

The leaflet is in all the main languages and points out that spare parts, breakdown service and towing service are available as well as food and drink. By studying the map included, a driver can plan his journey in detail where he will take on fuel, eat, sleep, and leave the motorway.

The map is also colour-keyed so that particular stretch of road can easily be located. Distances between the various service areas are also quoted, so the driver has all the information he needs.

Many of the German motorways have been duplicated to cater for heavy traffic, and their system is an education to anyone used to Britain's rather primitive and sometimes two-lane system.

Work is continually going on to improve the network and its amenities.

A journey like this could be monotonous, except that the nature of the country changes and even the nature and surface of the road. Between Cologne and Frankfurt, and again beyond Nuremberg, there are forested areas, and although the Autobahnen avoid gradients there are mountains to be seen at the southern end.

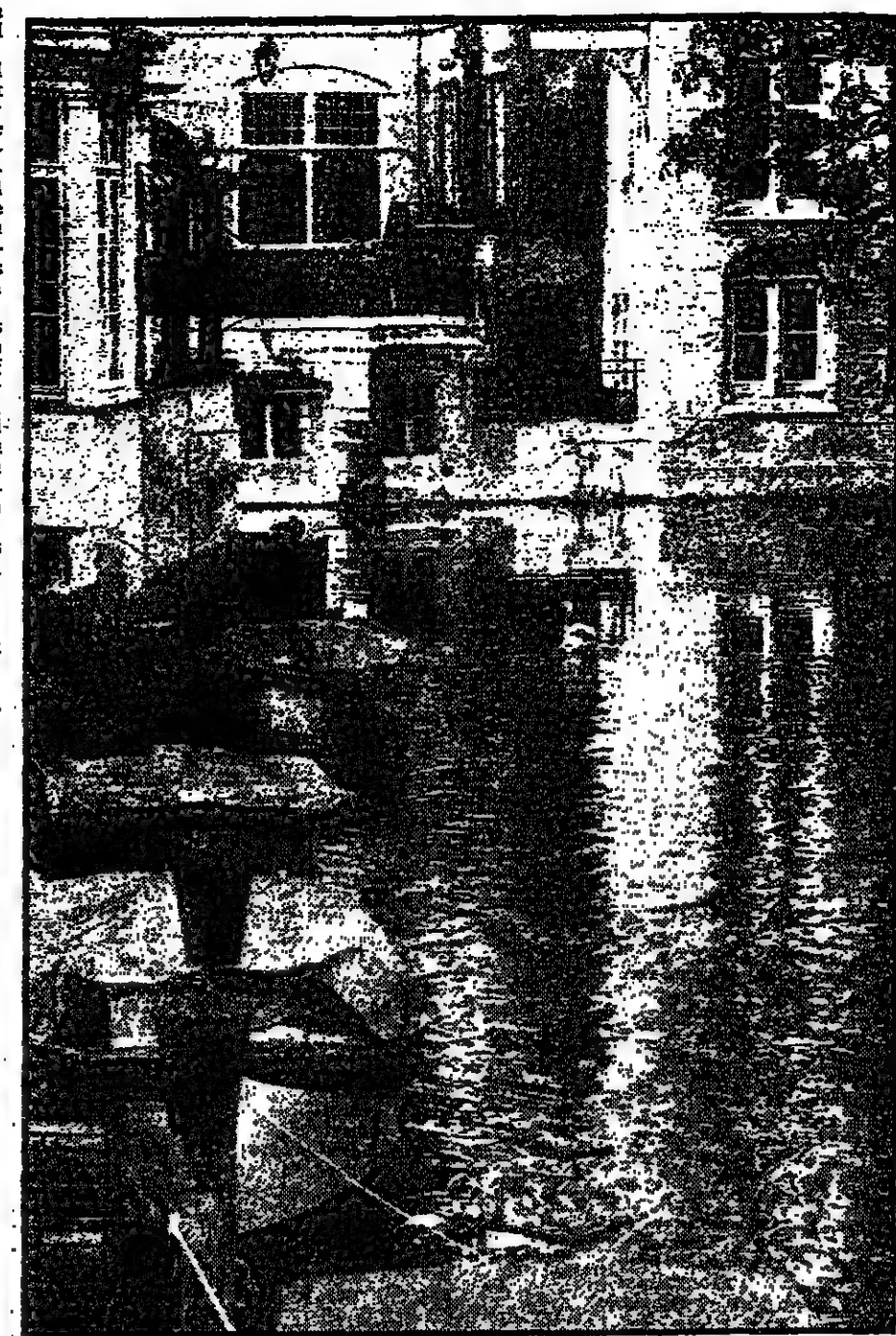
If the driver or passengers boring they could turn off on to the normal road or Bundesstrasse at Würzburg and pick up the so-called Romantische Strasse which winds down through the medieval towns of Rothenburg and Bamberg to Donauwörth on the Danube. This route runs for 200 miles or so, but it could be left at Augsburg, which is not far from Munich.

Munich, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps, offers a lot to the tourist, and the surrounding area is rich in scenic and historical beauties. Augsburg on the Romantische Strasse which follows an old Roman route, the Via Claudia, which ran to Rome, has all sorts of glories.

Crossing the Moselle Valley where it meets the Rhine west of Frankfurt, time should be found to drive the Moselle wine. Beer drinkers are also well catered for with more than a dozen varieties of both light and dark beer, usually in enormous pots.

Dachau concentration camp is near Munich and has been preserved as a memorial for the historically minded. The surrounding countryside has a pastoral, peaceful air and is great motoring country. In Munich there are several famous hotels, but my favourite is the Vier Jahreszeiten (Four Seasons) which has 567 beds. It is old-fashioned, in the best sense of the word, but in the luxury class for price.

George Bishop Pleasure boats on the peaceful Bruges canals.



Tollund Man: age has only slightly withered him

It may seem a long way to go to see a dead man, but in this case it is not crazy or morbid. From time to time I go to Denmark, which is about once every two years, I try to make a special pilgrimage to Silkeborg Museum to see Tollund Man. He was dug up in a peat bog.

The miracle is that, although he is 3,000 years old, he is more lifelike than any sculpture can be. Only his head is displayed and one side is a bit crushed, but you would never notice that if you looked at him from the right angle. Besides, when you know someone long enough, you forget what he looks like. He has a head, a neck, a torso, and arms. Age has turned him black.

My friend Tollund Man sleeps peacefully. The wrinkles round his eyes and the set of his mouth speak of quiet contentment. If he was sacrificed to the Gods, then that man had faith. He had time for a shave, too, though you can actually see the fine hairs that grew a bit afterwards, but not so long you would mistake him for a hobo. No, he has dignity.

He just happens to be in my favourite part of Denmark, a small country where everything is within easy reach, thanks to the ferries and good network of roads. Silkeborg is in the Danish lake district. With their nice sense of irony, the Danes call the highest point thereabouts "Skjoldnaes", but you can drive up its low slopes without changing gear, then walk up a bit farther for a glorious view.

The contrast with the juts and crags of Norway could not be greater. You cannot hope to see Norway properly in one longish holiday. The Norwegians themselves say 100 to 150 miles a day is considered a comfortable maximum for average cars. Most main roads are asphalted, and Norwegians like to think their country is accessible, though it would be wise to check first to see where you can take a caravan, if you have one.

Hairpin bends and zig-zag turns will take you to some of the most breathtaking scenery. Speed ought not to matter too much, if you really want to enjoy Norway. The recipe suggested by the Norwegians for a first holiday is to add one or two west coast fjords to the east Norwegian ones. The picture Norway always conjures up is fjords and lakes, mountain passes, valleys, forests, rivers and waterfalls.

If you are more adventurous the Arctic Svalbard is one suggested tour, which covers the country up to the North Cape. I have seen one or two oldish bangers proudly displaying evidence that they have been there, though I would not have trusted myself that far in them. The distance is about 1,350 miles, for which at least 10 days are needed. The way back

can be by way of Finland and Sweden.

Finland has its own suggestions about the Arctic Circle to northern Lapland, which curiously enough, raises the topic of food. Only a few miles south of the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi (population 30,000), there is to be had reindeer, which can be served in several different ways: smoked, dried or roasted. Desserts from fresh arctic berries include arctic bramble, cranberries and red whorlberries.

Fish is always worth having in Scandinavia, if it is not fresh then bottled or tinned. It sounds mundane, but the herring is anything but so when marinated as deliciously as they can be. I prefer to start the meal with them and snaps (the Danish spelling). Smoked eel served with scrambled egg is one of my favourite delicacies. The snaps is served along with beer for open sandwiches.

After trying my first Scandinavian meal 25 years ago and making a futile attempt to taste as many of the delights as possible, I am at the centre of the table as politely as possible. I was given a tip: the English idea of a sandwich with all that bread blurs the taste of the contents. So do not use as much bread for each delicacy as you would in Britain. Cut it into smaller pieces, then you can try more flavours.

But I am speaking of those occasions when you are not hard up and do not need to look for a cheap meal of one or two sandwiches at lunchtime which will get you by with a cup of coffee. Besides, it is highly dangerous to drink and drive in Scandinavia. The penalties are severe, so save your snaps drinking for days or nights when you are not using the car.

Admittedly, Swedish prisons can be worth a stay, but it would not be voluntary. One I went to (on a visit), not far from Stockholm, was in delightful countryside and everyone there had the glow of health. And there is a four-star hotel for offenders on the outskirts of Stockholm.

Thanks to the new high value of the pound, the British can actually contemplate paying for their stay in Scandinavia, something I have on occasions been forced to avoid, pauper like, by reciprocal hospitality. The problem has been to stop Scandinavians paying for entertainment in Britain, in the hope that they will reciprocate over there. They have been kind and generous enough in the past, but honour and dignity have demanded that at least one meal be bought by us in a suitable restaurant for the hosts, even though it meant cheeseparing in private.

But now there is no excuse. And there are more options for getting there, as long as the pound stays

high. One can think of going by ship without so many qualms, which means one is not necessarily reduced to driving from the Hook of Holland to Denmark in a day.

It is not as bad as it sounds, provided that you have a car fast enough to take advantage of the Autobahn and comfortable enough to snooze in. It is not a journey to be tackled single-handed. Two hours out, and two hours off, is the least tiring schedule I have found.

There is plenty of choice of ways of getting to Scandinavia by car ferry. The national tourist offices have ample brochures. It is possible to sail to West Germany and drive up from there, which is a useful compromise.

The North Sea is more

Latin in temperament than predictably Saxon. One trip it can be almost as calm as Windermere, the next it can toss you about. An abiding memory is a brave attempt to dance on a German ship as it rolled, so that all the couples moved as if by an invisible hand from one side of the floor to the other, as much in time with the heavy sea as with the music.

I was going to say it is practical to get to Finland only by ferry from within Scandinavia, but it is possible to sail in approximately 70 hours direct with a car from Hull or Freetown on cargo-passenger vessels. There are two, each with accommodation for 12 passengers. More details

may be had from the United Baltic Corporation (telephone 01-253 3456).

Do not forget that in the more remote parts of Scandinavia the roads may not have the sort of surface we are used to in Britain, though there are plenty of excellent ones. And never let your petrol gauge get too low when you are in the wide open spaces. Seek advice before you go about the range of weather you may expect for the time of year at your destination. Last February in Stockholm the harbour outside my hotel was frozen and the cold can be devouring. But the summer can be grand.

Peter Evans

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SPECIAL REPORTS

SUBJECTS IN PERSPECTIVE

TAKING YOUR CAR ABROAD

... and travelling by road and sea to Spain and the South of France

Alias M Hulot, en route to the Pyrénées

The obvious way to the coastal resorts of northern Spain, by direct ferry from Plymouth to Santander, is described below. This is hardly a morning holiday, however. So I would opt for starting the journey by ferry from Portsmouth to Cherbourg, which takes five hours on the Townsend Thoresen boats. An alternative is Southampton-Le Havre by F & O Ferries, which takes two hours longer.

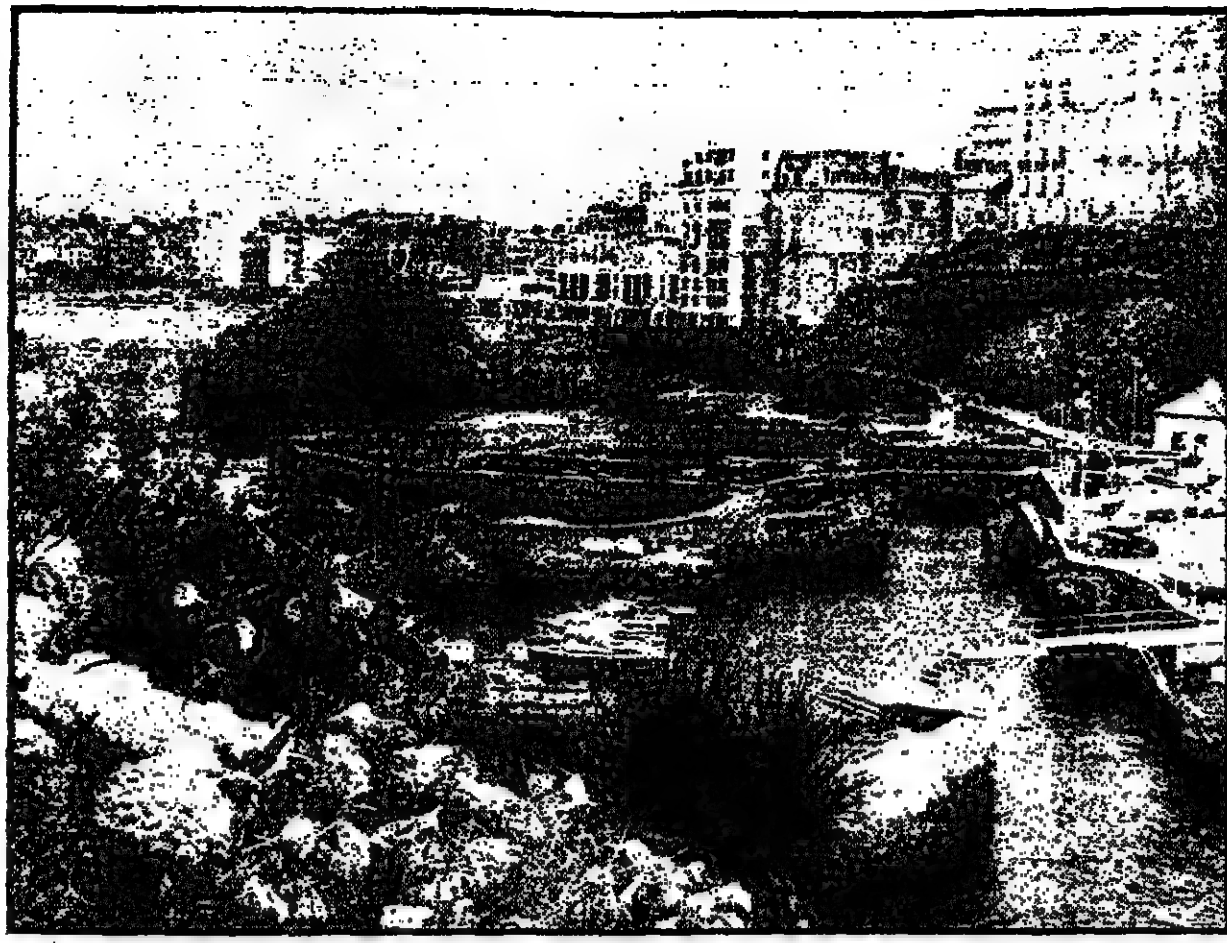
One of the disadvantages if you want rapid travel is that there is no motorway running north-south in that area, and it is a case of navigating your own route by the routes nationales right across France and along the Spanish coast. The distance is about 650 miles, but bearing in mind that it will be slow travelling if the speed limits for normal roads are observed it would be comfortable to allow two night stops, unless you opt to start early and drive late to make the fastest journey possible—which rather spoils the enjoyment of the country.

Cherbourg is close to all the monuments and museums of the Normandy landings. At least a day would be needed to take these in, with perhaps the Bayeux Tapestry as well. If you want to pause, the Hotel du Lion d'Or is near by and has a Michelin rosette for cooking, and good cider if you do not want to spend too much on wine.

If taking the direct route it would be the N174 by way of St. LA, then the N173 to Rennes, and the N137 to Nantes.

Rennes is too far for the lunch stop unless you come off the night boat very early, but there are two recommended restaurants at Pontebauk, not far from Mont St Michel.

From Nantes stay with the N137, which makes an inland swerve to go around La Rochelle, the old fortified town beloved of Simenon. You could go slowly through the town and carry on the same road to Royan



The old fishing harbour at Biarritz. The resort has more than 25 luxury, vintage hotels.

at the mouth of the Gironde, which is famous for fossils (at St Georges de Didonne near by) and a modern cathedral.

This is a good day's drive, and we might even stop earlier, perhaps at La Rochelle where there is lobster to be eaten. There are 10 listed hotels, but what I have done here in summer is to go to the Syndicat d'Initiative or tourist office where they will find you a room in a French seaside boarding house where you may pretend to be M Hulot for the night.

There is the option of missing Royan and taking the road through Saintes Pyrénées. I have spent many Roman remains and on to Bordeaux. A motorway is being built which will speed up the journey. Bordeaux has slow and difficult traffic, and there is the Garonne to cross. South of the city you cross Les Landes, the great pine forest on sand where each tree has a cup attached collecting its resin—a somewhat boring drive, now on the N10.

From the junction with the N124 the journey improves, with old towns and villages, and the beginning of the Basque country which covers an area of both France and Spain. The

Basques have their own language which is unrelated to French or Spanish, and you will see many houses with the petite basque court marked on the end. The country becomes green as you approach the Pyrénées. I have spent many happy holidays here between mountains and the sea. There is bullfighting in Bayonne to detain those who enjoy it. Then there is the choice of whether to enjoy St. Jean-de-Luz, the little fishing port, and Hendaye, which was fashionable in Edwardian times, or take to the motorway.

For a night's stop Biarritz has old-fashioned and luxury hotels—more than 25 of them—the most luxurious being the Palais. On the

minor road cars pulled by water buffalo meander along, and all is green and peaceful—unless the nationalists are busy.

I have a fondness for the Basque country, where you may wander at will from France to Spain across minor border crossings on the back roads. But this is all off the route to Santander, which is along the motorway past the Spanish summer capital of San Sebastian.

It is a long haul, and if tired you could always return by the direct ferry to Plymouth, although such plans would have to be laid well in advance as it is a popular way of getting to and from Spain.

G.B.

Ferry succeeds by caring for the young family

The years of springtime ambles in a small sports car through Brittany and the Loire Valley, and on through Biarritz, to the fresh green countryside of Galicia in northern Spain, came to a sorry end when my son arrived.

The paraphernalia of Mothercare will not be squeezed into a two-seater, so the MG has been replaced by a family Ford in which my son shrieks for attention every 50km.

So a holiday with the sterilizer unit in East Anglia was looming until I heard about the playground and nursery on board the Armorique. Run by Brittany Ferries, the 5,700-ton vessel plies between Plymouth and Santander, carrying your car to Spain in just 24 hours in a style to which I hope I shall become accustomed.

It means that you miss the wines of the French countryside but it provides you with a whole ocean in which to dispose of the nappies and leaves you a mere spin down

the road to Oviedo or, if you prefer, 244 miles to Madrid. The French-owned Brittany Ferries is now the only roll-on, roll-off car ferry link between Britain and Spain and much of its success is due to the uncomplicated shore-to-ship transfer in your heavily laden car at both Plymouth and Santander.

At both ports there is but one terminal, exclusive to the company, so even the traveller who needs a ball of string and a compass to find his way round the honeycomb of docks at Dover and Southampton has nothing to fear.

The key to the success of Brittany Ferries in attracting young families to Spain is the 12-hour cut in the 36-hour voyage which now enables passengers from Southampton to take the 24-hour trip from Plymouth means better use of the ship and more civilized departure and arrival times. In high season, from March 19 to October 27, the Armorique leaves Plymouth at 8

am on Mondays and 11.30 am on Wednesdays, and Santander at similar times on Tuesdays and Thursdays, after a two-hour passenger turn round.

In winter there is a once-weekly service departing Plymouth on a Wednesday and Santander the next day. A purpose-built ferry purchased by Brittany Ferries in 1976, the Armorique takes 700 passengers and 165 cars, and unlike previous competitors from Southampton rarely has trouble filling.

With your compulsory two red triangles in case of breakdown neatly stacked beneath the travelling cot in the boot, the drive from Millbay Docks, Plymouth, to the terminal on Calle de Antonio Lopez, opposite the cathedral at Santander, is a pleasure. There are no long queues of cars at either end for embarkation or customs.

After driving on to the car deck it is wise to take everything you need with you to your cabin because there is the complication of summoning a member of the crew to escort you should you wish to return to the vehicle during the voyage.

A steward takes you to your cabin, which is air-conditioned and either two or four berth. All have their own washbasin, and many a shower and a lavatory. With the children safely ensconced with the hostess and a pile of toys and games in the playroom, there is time to enjoy the three audecks and the duty-free bars as if it were properly the first day of the holiday.

There is a discotheque and a cinema, featuring three up-to-date films except for the first performance which is those children in the early afternoon who have tired of the playroom. For compulsive shoppers there is a duty-free supermarket and a separate gift shop. For lunch you may help yourself in the cafeteria but at night there is an

excellent five-course menu in the French restaurant which will cost about £8 a head. Children are not allowed.

The civilized departure and arrival schedules mean that you are woken in time for an English or continental breakfast an hour before you dock. It all amounts to an excellent time-saving start to a family holiday in Spain with your car and without the irritations of a trek through France.

The car fare is calculated on the number of passengers in it. But as a price guide the return fare in high season for a family with two children travelling in a Corrina and occupying a luxury cabin will be £369.90 this summer. That more than covers the cost of petrol through France, but it can mean the difference between taking a touring holiday in Spain with young children or not.

Michael Horsnell

The hard and the easy way to the Côte d'Azur

There are two ways to drive to the Côte d'Azur. One looks easy on the map but can be like a nightmare for the motorist; the other looks difficult to plan but is reasonably easy to drive.

The easy-on-the-map way starts from the Dunkirk autoroute and heads south, following signs to Arras/Paris via the autoroute A1. At Paris join the Boulevard Périphérique Est, look for the exit Porte d'Italie—Autoroute du Sud, follow the signs to Lyons A6, then on south via the autoroutes A7 and A8.

It sounds easy but during the summer season every motorist living north of Lyons plans the same route.

The autoroute round Lille is old and in disrepair. For Europe's intercontinental lorry drivers it is the only road to Paris, and it is heavily loaded with transport traffic every day of the year.

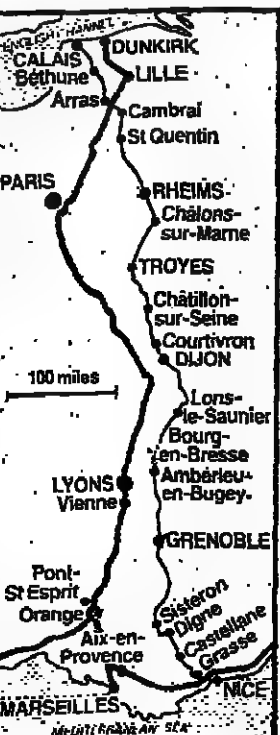
The Périgord round Paris looks good on the map, but it looks good to Parisians too. Some of the most serious accidents in France happen at this time of year on this stretch of road, and when they do the gendarmes close large sections of the road to clear the wreckage. The poor motorist now has to contend with inner

roads which are not signposted for through traffic.

On to Lyons, where the real jams start to build. All day through the summer the roads are almost at a standstill because this city is the real crossroads of Europe. Our motorist and his returning counterpart meet in a system of tunnels in the centre of the town, the Swiss and Italian holidaymaker travelling north and west from Grenoble, and the unfortunate French motorist heading east from St. Etienne.

Huge traffic jams start when all the aforementioned motorists meet at Orange, where the autoroute splits to go on west to Perpignan, south to Marseilles or the Côte d'Azur. I can remember being stationary on this triple-lane road for two hours one hot July morning. My advice is to go the other way—the hard-to-plan way.

From Calais drive to Bethune, and on to Cambrai, St. Quentin, Rheims, and Châlons-sur-Marne. Then drive down the route 77 to Troyes, and on to Châtillon-sur-Seine and Dijon. From Dijon pick up the N5 and N83 to Lons-le-Saunier, then on the N75 to Ambérieu-en-Bugey and Grenoble. Now you are in the pretty part of south-eastern France—the



Stay on the RN75 all the way south to Châteauneuf. Although the road looks like an intestine on the map much of it has, like most of the roads from now on, been recently widened and resurfaced. Now it is simple: pick up the RN85 to Digne, Castellane and Grasse,

and before you know it you are on the Riviera.

This hard-to-plan route is well signposted, with about 80 per cent of the journey being on traffic-free roads. (Everyone else is on the autoroutes). A lot of the route is pre-planned on the excellent Bison Futé map available free from the French Tourist Office in Piccadilly. This map is essential for any motorist thinking of driving in France. It has been designed by the French Ministry of Transport specifically to help motorists to avoid the main traffic holdups.

Unfortunately the printing leaves a lot to be desired, so it is best to transfer your part of the route on to a Michelin map (number 916). All the Bison Futé routes vertes are signposted at every main junction with a green arrow, making navigation almost foolproof. I made a journey to the Côte d'Azur in 1980. Taking the autoroute way and leaving Calais at 8 pm one day late in July, and driving all night, we arrived at Paris at 1.30 am. Vienne at midday, and Pont St. Esprit just north of Orange, our first overnight stop, at 2.30 pm. Leaving our hotel at 8.50 am the following day we did not join the autoroute because of the traffic jam which could be seen from the bridge which runs over it at this point. We

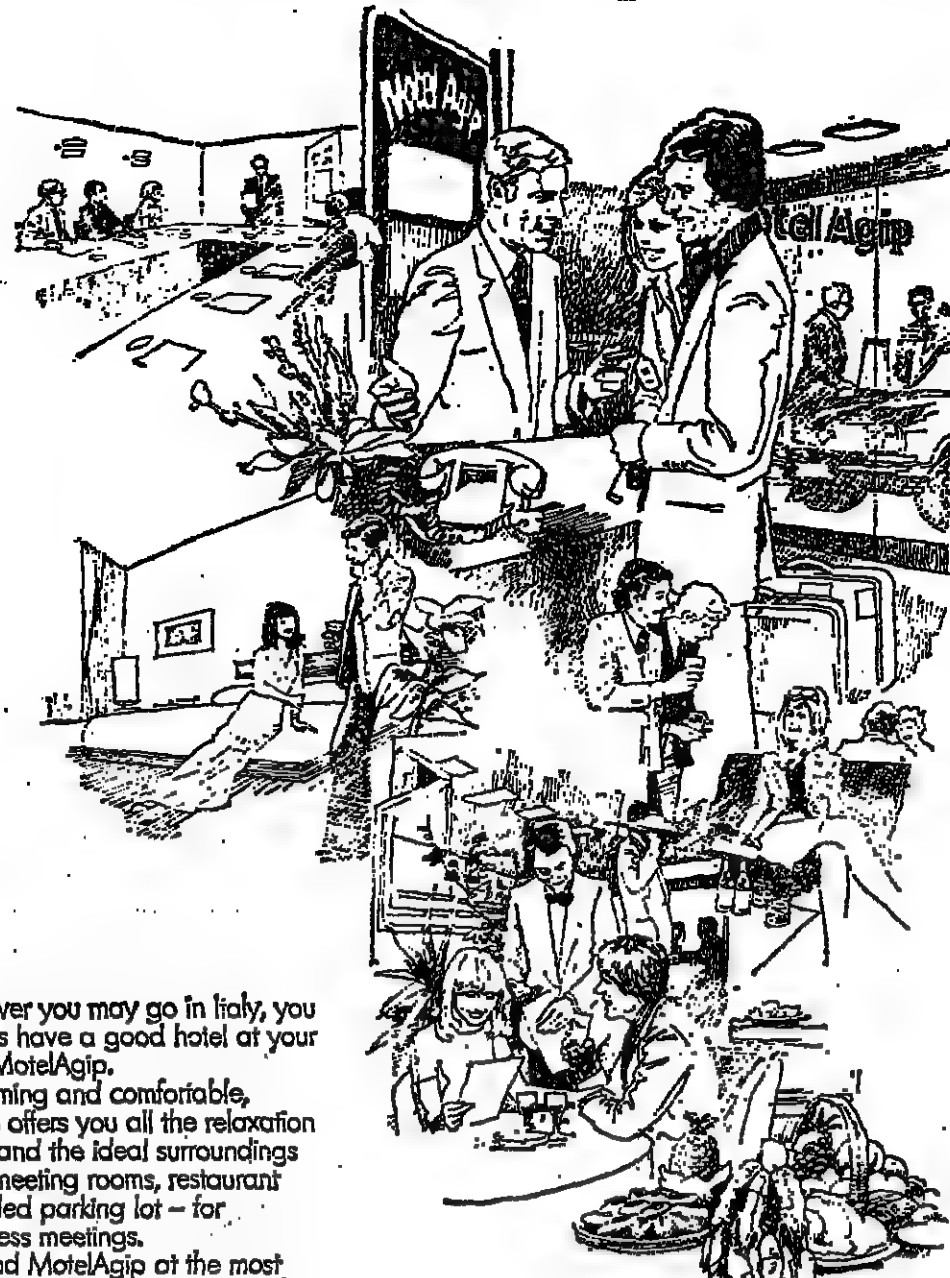
arrived at Nice at 1.15 pm.

The total distance was 338 miles, with petrol costs of about £30. The car used was a Citroën G Special with an average of about 35 miles a gallon. Toll fees were about £14. Be warned: the autoroute from Lyons to Aix-en-Provence and on to the Italian border is 87 francs, or 128 francs for a motorcaravan as these vehicles are classified as lorries.

Our return journey was by the other route. Leaving Nice at midday on an August Saturday we arrived at Sisteron at 5 pm and were still able to book an hotel at this time. (I had been unable to book an hotel anywhere near the autoroute for our downward journey as early as May.) Leaving Sisteron at 10 am the next day we stopped at a little village hotel in Courtyron north of Dijon, on the D6, at 7 pm. The following day, Monday, we left at 10.30 am and arrived at Calais at 9.10 pm. Total mileage registered was 760 miles—78 less than the downward journey. Petrol costs were about £23, and there were no autoroute toll fees. There was the extra overnight accommodation expense, but at 44 francs for the night for a family of four, at the Hôtel de la Poste in Courtyron, that was a luxury I think I could afford.

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Fred Emery

The balancing act round the Cabinet table

A week of some fun and some pique at Westminster has still left many MPs puzzled over the Prime Minister's first Cabinet reshuffle. It is predominantly of interest to the Tories, but Labour and Liberal MPs are naturally fascinated with this exercise in man management. Ministerial appointments, after all, provide the rare interludes when decisions can be solely in the hands of a Prime Minister, once shuffling made they have to be lived with for what is a long time in politics.

Such events are supposed to have nice clear-cut lines. But this rearrangement of the furniture is a messy business, and the westerly persuasion as rather formless and, at junior ministerial level, almost over concerned with having a balanced crew.

In other words, too few ardent Thatcherites got promotion. Certainly, the outcome in no way resembles the first account I read on holiday. "Mrs Thatcher demotes her opponents", said one German newspaper. As gesture of authority it certainly backfired in the helpless clarifications over who had or had not been leaving Cabinet discussions. Perhaps in the end it was a product of both the Prime Minister's impulsiveness to do something and her innate caution about doing too much.

Not surprisingly some odd interpretations have been placed on the aftermath—none odder than that Mr Francis Pym has been somehow promoted by being removed against his wishes from the Ministry of Defence. Explanations sought at varying levels of authority produce some answers, not all of them taking the

case much farther. The official version, as far as it goes, is that the lines of promotion had to be opened up, if only to get what has been called organic growth in political careers. All very commendable in plant propagation, but here there was only one newcomer to the Cabinet, two members moving sideways to responsibilities new to them, and one Cabinet career nipped in the bud.

Not exactly a bold exercise, although there is no disclaimer to the suggestion that Mr John Nott was moved to Defence to perform functions that Mr Pym declined to do.

Another version, which has gained wide currency, builds on the latter point to make Mr Pym's removal the focus of the reshuffle. Since he had fought hard against cuts in defence spending, at least twice in one year letting the Prime Minister know that he would resign if the cuts went too deep, he was a nuisance to both her and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He was also a shrewd exploiter, in opposing spending cuts, of Mrs Thatcher's own supporters within the party, all those who champion her as the Iron Lady.

The problem with this theory, dubbed "humiliation" of Mr Pym, is that you do not offer a politician of such stature the new political springboard he now has in both the House and the Cabinet, at least not without risk.

Yet another version which, to my mind, is more plausible is that, to the Prime Minister, the replacement of Mr Norman St John-Stevas with a stronger leader of the House was the crux, with the transfer of Mr

The political balance after the reshuffle remains scarcely altered

Pym away from Defence a welcome bonus to her and the Chancellor.

The business, incidentally, took from Friday to Monday, although the Prime Minister was "undoubtedly accurate" in saying that its final dispatch took only the course of a working day.

Mrs Thatcher, certainly consulting the Chief Whip, Mr Michael Jopling, was adamant that Mr St John-Stevas had to go. She wanted a tougher hand at the Commons helm, although, paradoxically, Cabinet colleagues say she does not see Parliament as being important in getting the Government's policies across.

The former Leader of the House was criticised for being too much

the Leader of the whole House, and not firm enough with the Opposition. Yet considering how successfully Mr St John-Stevas had turned the Black Rod affair against Mr Michael Foot, this criticism strikes an odd note. Other Government blunders in the Commons could more easily be laid at other ministers' doors, including Mrs Thatcher's. But that fact itself discloses woundingly that Mr St John-Stevas did not have clout with his own colleagues. And—hardly a minor detail—the disparaging Cabinet nicknames attributed to his invention—"John Nix" and "Sir Geoffrey Dho"—"Heather" and the like—left him without any friends, or least anyone prepared to fight for him.

But the replacement was not straightforward. Mr Pym, as he made clear in a radio interview, did not want to move. Mr Humphrey Atkins was seen as a possible alternative. Colleagues doubted whether Mr Pym would agree to go. In this government a full department is seen as the key to power.

But Mrs Thatcher, in commander-in-chief mode, finally gave the order; and Mr Pym, a loyalist and gentleman, acquiesced. No MP who has talked to him this week has come away believing that any promotion was intended or discerned.

One clear promotion there was, that of Mr Leon Brittan to be Treasury Chief Secretary. A protégé of Sir Geoffrey's, he is authoritatively expected to get down to the wearing nitty gritty far more than Mr John Biffen ever did, and without crossing Mrs Thatcher's path.

What Mr Biffen thinks of having

a department all to himself is not altogether clear. His devotion to the Government's economic policy is not in doubt. But his aspirations on the too-dominant adherence to the Government's medium-term financial strategy had, it is said, begun to jar.

Mr Nott at Defence is clearly expected to be a hater of money. But one sceptic suggested he could well end up advocating more money on defence than even Mr Pym.

The political balance of the Cabinet, after all this, remains scarcely altered. The economic jobs, now plus Defence, are still in the hands of Mrs Thatcher's keenest supporters. Also as before the other Conservative heavyweights, whether in Lords or Commons, are kept at a distance from economic policy.

Mr Pym, by dint of new access to key Cabinet committees, could in theory exert his own pragmatic blend of political influence. But that remains a matter more of potential than fact.

The others may worry or complain but they are still being given no look-in on economic or budget policy, as Mr Nigel Lawson's speech, entitled "Thatcherism in practice", re-emphasized.

What perhaps most worries them



Mike Burton in action... he is an orator too.

The rugby types who never break training

The "Master of Horse" has buttoned up the travel; "Daffodil", another committee man, has seen the local arrangements and the Bloody Men's Rugby Club is in an advanced state of preparation for its fixture today.

Since the club's motto is Deoch (the Gaelic word for drink) and its crest comprises a glass surrounded by a rugby ball, hurling goalposts and clouds on high, it is not surprising to learn that the expedition to Cardiff will be strictly non-combustion. Another committee man, "Le Piquet", will hold the club pennant as a rallying point for the thirsty: its colours are a horrendous striped mixture of orange, dark blue, light blue and maroon, so the members should have no difficulty in identifying the location and then hearing from the treasurer and rumormonger when they have to buy the next round.

The founder of the Bloody Men's Rugby Club, and for many years now its zealous, presiding genius, is Sir Robert Lawrence, vice-chairman of the British Railways Board and chairman of the BR Property Board and of the National Freight Company. "It all began", he explained, "in 1949 when half a dozen chaps who knew each other vaguely were travelling up on the day train for the Calcutta Cup in Edinburgh."

"There were no dining cars at the time and before Newcastle the booze had run out. So I used my railway clout to get adequate replacement supplies put on board."

"We all agreed to meet after the game in the North British Hotel and to mutual astonishment everyone turned up. We all went back on the night train, being wise to lock his compartment door, and we agreed to meet again at the Duke of Cambridge, Hounslow, on the morning of the next Calcutta Cup game. Everyone turned up again, plus friends. The routine went on and by 1954 we decided to form a club, primarily for old players who had lost connexion with their club and wanted organized arrangements for seeing the internationals and the Varsity match."

Robert Lawrence was elected secretary and committee of one, and the first president was a man of considerable independent once, one A. F. Hunter who

wore a black bowler with brown shoes and grey trousers, the last item as a concessionary measure on sporting occasions. This attire en route for France "contre les Anglais" at Colombes, he caused a considerable stir among the local population. He did so again at the Café de Paris (whether the more prudent members had taken themselves to avoid drinking too much) when relaxing into seltzerous slumber just as the girls reached the all together.

One member resigned because, he thought the club was getting too respectable, but Sir Reginald Wilson, a distinguished accountant and business man, was made president to indicate that it was of passable repute. Occasional difficulties remained. In the early days a member of Edinburgh hotels struck the Bloody Men off their visiting list.

This problem was solved by the discovery of a lady who ran a private unlicensed establishment and brought her own supplies into the kitchen as well as some hostesses, allegedly to counter the situation. "To the best of my knowledge," Sir Robert declares, "there was no overt immorality."

The annual general meeting of this extraordinary club is described by the president as being a complete farce. Report and accounts take up two minutes, after which the serious business of the evening is resumed. The annual dinner is held at the RAF Club, the only one of its kind that will have them, although Sir Robert is adamant that this is not so much an account of bad behaviour as because members are very large and rather noisy.

A guest speaker this winter was that renowned West Country orator, M. A. Burton, who brought the house down with one of the less subtle speeches I have heard of, a rugby dinner but retaining one of the funniest. His audience included the BM's one lady member, the gracious, much-loved Mollie Gerrard, known as Verlocke, who, as a former president of the Eads Club, kept the likely form.

When asked what he recalled his extra-curricular activities with his somewhat establishment image, Sir Robert merely observed that he had behaved differently on Saturdays.

Peter West

Letter from Giza

A foul time in the desert with Canasta

It was a bad day for dogs at the Pyramids of Giza, but Ibrahim Fikry was not bothered. He leaned back on his sick, clucked his tongue at his indifferent camel and went on flashing his white-washed teeth in our direction. Every few seconds, the crack of a rifle would echo off the ancient building blocks of old King Cheops's extravagant tomb, followed instantly by the wall of a wounded moored. "The dogs are a nuisance," explained Mr Fikry with equanimity. "They bring disease. Our people have to shoot them."

Dogs, of course, do not make money at the Pyramids so they receive less sympathy than the moon-faced camels that make a living for Mr Fikry. He had just hired out a particularly repulsive beast to The Times, a creature of such unsurpassing ugliness and ill temper that riding it was a concession to the owner rather than a privilege. As far as resembled a worn-out kitchen carpet and a cluster of flies swarmed round its huge nose.

After 25 years hawking his five camels to the world's most intimidated tourists, Mr Fikry has a special line of patter. "This camel is Canasta. She is a good camel, very good. She likes you. You can take the rope. You wanna go to the right, you pull to the right. You wanna go to the left, you pull to the left. You wanna stop, you pull rope. Welcome to Egypt."

There was another burst of gunfire from the Pyramids, another animal yelp of pain and the camel turned sharply to the right. The camel turned left and belched. Mr Fikry com-

mended me on my skill in handling his beloved Canasta. Over to our right, another dragonman, a bulky figure in a dark galbani gown, was swearing bitterly in German at an astonished tourist from a Munich travel club. He clasped the man by the arm and demanded three more Egyptian pounds. The German stared back then broke free and fled in the direction of the Temple of the Queen.

The Egyptian authorities turn an indulgent eye towards the activities of the 150 dragonmen who live in the little mud and brick village of Nasaman at the foot of the Giza plateau. All have to be licensed to ply their trade and only the inhabitants of the village can hire camels or horses around the Pyramids. But they unerringly pick a shouting match with the meanest holidaymakers and Mr Fikry has a shrewd understanding of just how to the owner rather than a privilege. Here, for the benefit of Times readers contemplating a visit to the greatest wonder of the World, is his advice:

1. Never—never—try to bargain about the price of your camel ride before climbing aboard. If you lack so much confidence that you need to bargain first, you will easily be intimidated into paying more later. If you say nothing, the dragonman thinks you know the price.

2. Do not pay too much. Japanese tourists overspend—Mr Fikry took 1,000 US dollars from one a few days ago for a return camel trip to Memphis, 15 miles south of Giza, and he would have accepted a quarter of that. Russians are despised because they try to pay with



packets of Bulgarian cigarettes. 3. Do not be rude about dragonmen in their presence. Their English (or French or German or Italian) is almost always good enough to understand the insult and they will make you pay for it. (Literally) when your ride is over.

This is therefore the moment to say that Mr Fikry is a splendid dragonman, as considerate, polite and as honest as Memphis. He drove camels before he drove camels he owned horses, he told us. He had learned English in the British army. "The British army?" we asked, and Mr Fikry fumbled inside his gal-

beast for a dirty yellow card. It bore a photograph of a very young Ibrahim Fikry and was signed by a Royal Air Force officer at RAF Kasraret in Sudan. Mr Fikry had been registered as a civilian worker but his occupation was listed as "fruit vendor".

What happened to the

Mounted tourists posing before the extravagant tomb of old King Cheops: always remember, the dragonman knows best...

horses? we asked. "I sold many oranges", said Mr Fikry, beaming.

Canasta snorted again and stumbled up on to the Pyramid causeway built by the slaves of antiquity. Her scraggy hooves slipped on the polished stones and she began to small, reminding me of a tatter-tail phrase-book I once bought in the Cairo bazaar. It included an entry telling tourists how to say: "Pray, pick me a nose-gay" in Arabic.

All the Pyramid camels come from the Sudan—they cost about US\$1,000 in the Cairo camel market—and live to the age of 25. Canasta was only eight but she showed signs of age. At times she halted beside cracks in the causeway and just level with the Sphinx she scuffed her hooves and almost fell over. Mr Fikry and his brother Mohamed own their five camels—there are no more cages in the world of the dragonmen—although a bespectacled tourist operated on their behalf at the feet of the Sphinx.

Canasta belched once more and fell to her knees. She was tired. Mr Fikry waited patiently beside her. We had followed his advice and not bargained at the start. How much did he want, we asked? "As you like," he said. Yes, but really how much would he expect? "As you like."

One pound? "As you like". I produced the first note in my pocket and before I had realized it was a five (about £3 sterling), Mr Fikry had signed a very good person, he announced and held out his hand. How could we refuse such a handshake?

Robert Fisk

Two more triumphs for the sea rescue teams

Two rescue operations carried out by helicopters in the Irish Sea and the North Sea during the past 48 hours and resulting in the saving of 18 lives have again demonstrated the remarkable state of expertise and organization in the "search and rescue" field around the coasts of the British Isles coupled with those along the Scandinavian and West European coasts.

The rescue of nine out of 12 members of the crew of a Dutch Atlantic reconnaissance aircraft between the west of Scotland and Northern Ireland on Thursday was an almost copy-book replica of a similar job done by the same rescue unit No 819 Squadron Royal Navy, at Prestwick more than two years ago when an exactly similar type of Dutch aircraft ditched off the Scottish coast but from which all 14 crew were rescued.

A Nimrod to guide

The same combination of good communications and positioning resulted in the saving of nine lives on Thursday, with a special factor being the presence overhead of one of the RAF's long range Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which could guide the rescue helicopters on to a precise position on a very large stretch of very rough sea.

during Thursday night and Friday morning in the totally hostile sea area well to the north east of Shetland, during which another nine lives were saved from a sinking Norwegian fishing vessel, included the same ingredients.

The excellent radio communications, then good directions from co-ordination bases at Pitreavie near Edinburgh and from Stavanger in Norway which brought four helicopters on top of the seamen in desperate need of help only about three hours after they had broadcast their first "Mayday" message.

Helicopters provided under a special contract between Shell and British Airways on the Brent oilfield were first on the scene but they ran into trouble because of the sheer enormity of the seas and blinding blizzards blowing into the pilots' faces, preventing them from carrying out the most difficult flying a helicopter pilot can undertake—an accurate hover.

The launching of rescue facilities from this country and from Scandinavia had already come into effect. However, at just before midnight a Royal Norwegian Air Force Sea King and a similar Sikorsky S-61 provided by the British Airways air-sea rescue base in Shetland, were over the stricken vessel, lighting up the whole desperate scene—which included hurricane force northerly winds and 30ft high waves.

The Norwegian helicopter was the first into action with the British Airways aircraft

alongside. The first casualty winched aboard the Norwegian helicopter had to be taken to medical aid quickly because of chest injuries and he was flown to a nearby Norwegian oil rig where there were doctors and hospital facilities available. As that which begins next Tuesday in the village hall at Ripley, Surrey. Government witnesses will be faced with some awkward questions, and memories are being evoked of the notorious Criche Down case of more than a quarter of a century ago.

Trouble in the blizzard

Earlier, two little Bell 212 helicopters from the Mount Field had had their "high-line" ropes severed by the extreme sea and wind conditions. The British Airways helicopter crew attempted to get a rope down but they were in trouble because blizzards kept blowing in and the pilots could not maintain accurate hovers.

The Norwegian Sea King then came back, having picked up a longer length of rope from the oil rig; it finally pried up the rest of the crew and the helicopter was then flown to a temporary rest on a rig and then for onward transmission to Bergen.

Eighteen people are alive and well today because of the rescue organizations now aligned around the British Isles and on the western seaboard of Europe. In the same circumstances 10 years ago they would probably all have died.

John Chartres

Why so many people are against flying again at Wisley

Few planning inquiries can have been attended by such potentially serious and far reaching political consequences as that which begins next Tuesday in the village hall at Ripley, Surrey. Government witnesses will be faced with some awkward questions, and memories are being evoked of the notorious Criche Down case of more than a quarter of a century ago.

The inquiry concerns an appeal by Jenstat Ltd against the refusal by Guildford Borough Council to grant permission for the former Wisley airfield to be reopened for aviation. County, district and parish authorities are unanimously opposed to the project, and are backed by a large number of local residents who fear that their tranquil corner of the Green Belt would be despoiled by the noise of up to 30,000 aircraft movements a year.

The issues are not confined to local amenity. They go back to the Second World War, when 270 acres of what was then farmland were requisitioned under emergency regulations for use as a base for testing military aircraft. Ministers of the day gave assurances that the airfield would remain only so long as hostilities continued, and that it would subsequently be restored for agricultural use.

However, the land was conveniently situated for the post-

war aircraft industry in the area, notably the Vickers plant at Weybridge. Not only was permission granted for its continued use for testing, but in 1951 a concrete runway, one and a quarter miles long, was constructed to replace the former grass strip.

In 1964 the company, which had by then become part of the British Aircraft Corporation, applied for a further extension of the airfield's life. Permission was duly granted, with a "repeal of the proviso that, once they were no longer required, the runway and all the buildings should be removed and the land returned to agriculture. By that time the local authorities had agreed somewhat unwillingly to the temporary closure of rights of way on the understanding that they would in due course be reopened.

In 1972 BAC made it known that it no longer required the airfield. The authorities asked the Ministry of Defence what it intended to do about the removal of the runway and buildings and received further assurances that the work would begin shortly. But two years later the Earl of Lynton, who under the so-called Criche Down procedure had first option to buy the land, submitted an application for its use for intensive livestock-rearing. Since his plans envisaged use of the existing installations, the Government was able to claim that it was

prevented from demolishing them.

After another two years, Lord Lynton's application was rejected. This time the Government said it would remove the hangars, but that to dig the runway up would be too expensive. Guildford Council retorted that, on the contrary, it had been in touch with a big contractor who was prepared to pay £20,000 to be allowed to break up the runway and clear away the rubble, which would provide valuable hard core for road construction.

In June, 1977, Mr Kenneth Marks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Environment and the minister responsible for the Government's Property Services Agency, wrote to Sir George Sinclair, then Conservative MP for Dorking, to say that tenders would be invited for the removal of the runway and buildings had been cleared. The buildings were demolished but, despite further assurances from PSA officials, the runway remained.

In 1979 an application was submitted by a company called Jenstat Ltd for the use of the airfield for general aviation purposes. Guildford Council requested further information, which was not forthcoming, and the company duly appealed against what it claimed was the council's refusal to grant its plans. The Government said that it could not now proceed with demolition

of the runway, as that might prejudice the outcome of the appeal.

At about the same time the PSA rejected Surrey County Council's bid to open up the airfield to Lord Lynton "under the Criche Down Code", complete with the runway. The council angrily protested that this was contrary to all the undertakings that had been given, and it asked that, before any transactions were entered into, it should be given first option to purchase the land.

To its astonishment, in June last year it received a letter from the PSA in which the writer said he could not confirm that the land would be offered to the council, because the agency had already sold it to Lord Lynton. The following month Mr Keith Wickenden, moved an adjournment debate in the Commons in which he declared that, in a shabby story, this last action was the most disgraceful example of sharp practice that he had come across.

The Government refused to disclose the purchase price and it was left to Lord Lynton to inform readers of The Daily Telegraph that the figure was £200,000, which represented the agricultural value of the land, without planning permission or any so-called "hope" element. Lord Lynton also claimed any interest in Jenstat but earlier this month he admitted that he would be a

shareholder in a company which would be set up to operate the airport if permission were granted.

Mr. Neil McGregor-Wood, chairman of the Parish Council and vice-chairman of Stop Wisley Airport (SWAT), sees four main objections to the airport scheme: it would fly in the face of all previous government undertakings; it would be an intrusion into the Green Belt and a violation of the county structure plan; because of its proximity to Heathrow and Gatwick it would endanger air safety; and it would engender unacceptable extra road traffic.

The Department of Transport has already said it will oppose the scheme on traffic grounds, and the Civil Aviation Authority, although it has not yet committed itself, is thought to be unhappy about further congestion of the space.

But it is the extraordinary reluctance of successive governments to honour commitments made nearly 40 years ago that is likely to dominate the inquiry. As a local newspaper, the Surrey Daily Advertiser, asked in a recent leading article, "Why is Wisley Airfield so important an issue to the Government that it will break promises, ignore compromises and try to put the local council in the wrong? Perhaps next week it will tell us."

John Young
Planning Reporter



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A TOUGH YEAR FOR EVERYONE

The latest set of economic indicators confirm the broad pattern which emerged towards the end of last year. The precipitate decline in output of the summer of 1980 shows some signs of abating but there is no immediate prospect of any sustained recovery. Some of the forces which led to a decline last year, such as the need to run down stocks, may be less in evidence during 1981 but there are disturbing signs for other factors such as our exports. On balance, the industrial sector will continue to be under pressure during the remainder of the year.

There are also likely to be further disturbing increases in the level of unemployment, something which was referred to by the Employment Secretary, Mr. James Prior, yesterday. Although Ministers feel that the worst is now over for output and that there is still encouraging news ahead on inflation, there can be no doubt that there will be severe economic difficulties for some time to come.

The greatest problem facing the Government remains something over which it has limited control and whose movement no one has been able to predict accurately. The high parity of sterling is imposing severe strain on the manufacturing sector of the economy. Although it has beneficial effects on the inflation rate, sterling's high value is exerting a severely depressive effect on the economy.

There are already signs that demand for consumer goods is being switched to imports because of their price advantage. The volume of exports is beginning to decline and the profits on which the future investment of industrialists depends have been severely eroded. The Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated in his written answer in the House of Commons yesterday (Friday) that he would consider shifting some of the burden of taxation from the corporate to the personal sector in his forthcoming Budget. He would be right to do so.

The Prime Minister rightly stresses that a country must live within its means. Yet well into

the autumn of last year, personal living standards were rising at a time when national output was falling. This could not go on indefinitely. There are, fortunately, signs that during the current pay round the level of settlements is more realistically aligned with companies' ability to pay than it was in the first year after the Government took office.

That alone will not, in all probability be sufficient to deal with the problems faced by the manufacturing sector. It does not, in any case, deal adequately with the burdens imposed on the manufacturing sector by the rising exchange rate. There is a danger that North Sea oil, by driving up the value of the pound, could actually cause a reduction in our national wealth rather than an increase.

The Chancellor ought thus to pay sympathetic attention to the arguments in favour of helping the corporate sector at the expense of the personal sector. He would, however, be wrong to make any such action the excuse for pumping extra demand into the economy. Although the progress in reducing inflation is encouraging, other aspects of the Government's policy have gone less well. The money supply has grown more quickly than the Government's target in spite of unprecedentedly high interest rates. The level of public borrowing gives severe cause for concern. No one knows just how large the borrowing requirement will turn out to be this year, but it will clearly be significantly higher than the Chancellor forecast last November, which in turn was higher than expected in his Budget speech.

In terms of both money supply and public borrowing the current financial year has to be largely written off. That provides no reason for giving up on the Government's medium-term plan for restoring financial stability to the economy. The targets for monetary growth during the forthcoming financial year contained in the medium-term strategy are restrictive, but not excessively so.

The levels for public borrowing implied by that strategy, which would suggest total borrowing next financial year of around £7,000m, cannot be achieved without administering a further sharp round of tax increases to the economy. There is, however, a strong case against sharp tax increases, particularly in a recession, since the level of private sector loan demand will be depressed. A borrowing requirement of £9,000m or £10,000m should still be consistent with the Government's targets on monetary growth.

The Chancellor should be able to hold public borrowing to this level with only a small increase in the net burden of taxation above that which he announced in November. He will, however, have to raise taxes on the personal sector to pay for any assistance which he gives to industry. In doing this he has a choice between increasing taxes on spending and increasing those on income. The balance ought to be weighted on this occasion towards taxes on income, though in a way which has as little disincentive effect as possible.

Increasing Value added Tax would have an unnecessarily damaging effect on prospects for reducing inflation. It would be better to give a smaller increase in the value of personal allowances than is implied by straightforward indexation in line with inflation. This would have no effect on the marginal rate of tax which most people pay, which is the important factor in looking at the problem of incentives.

The prospect thus ought to be of a rather quiet Budget in terms of the overall level of demand, but significant steps to shift the pattern of the flow of funds within the personal sector. Individuals will have to take more of the strain. The Government cannot hope that this will make it popular in the year ahead, since the result will be to depress living standards. Yet if the longer term recovery of the economy needed to reduce unemployment is to occur, such a shift must take place. The Chancellor should explain that clearly in the months ahead.

A GOOD START FOR MR HAIG

The overwhelming vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of Mr Haig's nomination as Secretary of State gets him off to a good start. At one time it had been thought that he would have difficulty in getting Senate approval because of his association with President Nixon at the time of Watergate. But though Watergate came up in the questioning, and was cited by the two senators who voted against him as grounds for their withholding their approval, it did not affect the very favourable impression that Mr Haig gave the committee. He appeared knowledgeable and assured, while showing the political sensibility that he will need in his dealings both with foreign countries and in the world of Washington politics.

No one has ever doubted Mr Haig's intelligence or his driving ambition. He first became known to the public when, as a relatively junior general, he worked for Dr Kissinger in the National Security Council; he became Mr Nixon's chief of staff during the last, difficult days of the Nixon presidency, and was subsequently appointed Supreme Allied Commander for Europe. So he has knowledge both of the working of Washington and of the pressures of European politics. The question has been whether his

own lack of political experience — he has never stood for election himself — and the lingering aura of Watergate would limit his effectiveness.

On the evidence of this week's hearings, they will not. It is even possible that Mr Haig will succeed in combining an informed view of the outside world with political clout in Washington — something that Mr Vance, for instance, never achieved. Certainly there is every likelihood that he, as Secretary of State, will be in charge of American foreign policy, rather than Mr Reagan's national security adviser.

As the content of foreign policy, Mr Haig showed that it will primarily be concerned with what he called perhaps the central strategic phenomenon of the post-World War II era: the transformation of Soviet military power from a continental and largely defensive land army to a global offensive army, navy and air force fully capable of supporting an imperial foreign policy. He spoke of the declining military capabilities of the United States and the West in general, and the need to build them up again. But throughout the hearings he was extremely careful not to seem to be putting undue pressure on American allies in Europe and in Japan, to increase arms spending. There

was no reason for the United States to take a superior attitude, he said. The need to improve military posture applied to everyone, just as there was a need for all those with like interests to work together.

Mr Haig also showed a welcome awareness that the Third World should not be treated as an undifferentiated whole. Recent American policy, he said, had suffered from a misperception which lumped together wholly diverse countries. There must be some doubts, on the other hand, about his intentions in the human rights area, or at least the way he expressed them this week. He plainly intended to signal a change of policy from that of the Carter Administration, and evoked the danger of "reluctant friendly governments" which would satisfy our standards of democracy with hostile ones which are even less benign. The human rights policy of the Carter period has certainly had its failings, but there is more to it than that.

All in all, Mr Haig appeared as a tough-minded policy-maker, but less of a hawk than some Democrats had feared. If he succeeds in imprinting his views on American foreign policy, it will be both coherent and rational, which is something to be welcomed by America's friends, as well as the rest of the world.

Scientific thinking

From Sir Charles Pereira, FRS
Sir, In the past three years I have encountered much interest overseas in the British experiment, instigated by Lord Rothschild, in the administration of public funds for science. This proposed the injection of scientific thinking and research experience at the senior levels of public administration.

For agriculture, the 1972 White Paper (Cmd 5046) prescribed the transfer of more than half of the funds of the Agricultural Research Council to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This left the council as one member wryly remarked, "a minority shareholder in its own house", but the change was balanced by the recruitment to the Ministry of a chief scientist, at Deputy Secretary level, with authority to commission research and development programmes both within the ministry and with the council and other external contractors.

The chief scientist was also responsible for scientific advice to the Minister and for assistance to the permanent secretary on the opportunities for better use of science in the three major industries involved. With a small chief scientist's group the immediate tasks were of finding out, for the first time, the extent and adequacy of the public resources deployed for research and development in the many specific problems and of consultations with leaders of the industries on their needs.

The more difficult task of the chief scientist was to improve the balance and coordination between the immediate "trouble-shooting" investigations called for by the farming community and the longer-term studies of causes and mechanisms which provide the essential ammunition for trouble-shooting. Substantial costs are involved, in which some £40m per annum of

taxpayers' money is much less than the cost of missing out the opportunities to improve productivity and competitiveness within the Common Market.

The recent announcement (*The Times*, January 4) of a decision to appoint the chief scientist's post as deputy secretary level in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, while still retaining the funds originally transferred, will be seen by scientists in Britain, and overseas, as a move by the generalists of the Civil Service to exclude scientists from the upper policy level of administration of research and development funds. It is very evident in Brussels that this is not the policy of our more successful EEC partners.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PEREIRA,
Pearce, Fairclaw, Teston, Kent.
January 12.

Marital conciliation

From Mrs Lisa Parkinson
Sir, The divorce rate in England and Wales is higher than in any other Common Market country, and we agree with Trevor Berry (*Social Focus*, January 7) that a legal process which grants divorces by the thousand, without encouraging divorcing parents to reach agreed decisions concerning their children, is irresponsible.

Whereas a marriage certificate costs £12, a petitioner with a "disposable" income of up to £50 per week can obtain a divorce for a maximum payment of £5. Legal aid for matrimonial disputes costs £30-£40m per year (if both parties are legally aided the average cost per case is now £800). An even higher price is paid by children, who may endure prolonged conflict, ended only by complete loss of contact with one parent.

Innovatory work in Bristol shows that much destructive litigation can be avoided if both parties engage, separately or jointly, in confidential discussions with a conciliator. There is an acute need for conciliation at the time of separation, as well as at the later stage of divorce proceedings.

Many solicitors refer clients to the Bristol Conciliation Service and lawyers were closely involved in setting it up. The combination of the neutral mediating role of the conciliator (qualified in marital and family law) and the legal expertise of the solicitor (who provides legal advice but does not attend the discussions) benefits the families concerned, and avoids contested court proceedings.

No government department has so far accepted responsibility for developing family conciliation services. The Bristol service will close in 1982 and valuable experience will be lost, unless immediate action is taken by those concerned about family life in this country, and the needs of children.

Yours faithfully,
LISA PARKINSON, Coordinator,
Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service,
Commercial Rooms Box No 101,
59 Broad Street,
Bristol.

Farewell to Blackwood's

From Mr C. J. L. Elwell
Sir, Elizabeth Barrett was another distinguished contributor to *Blackwood's* (letter, January 14). Her poem, "The City of the Children" was first published in the magazine in August, 1843.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. L. ELWELL,
Botolph Claydon,
Buckinghamshire.
January 14.

Conflicting attitudes on activities of Opus Dei

From Mrs Hilda Marlin
Sir, Your profile of Opus Dei (January 12) astonished me greatly. I have known the movement for over twenty years, though I am not a member. I have attended services, retreats and lectures, and have made personal friends in Washington, Montreal, Dublin, Manchester, London and Nairobi. I always found the atmosphere peaceful and pleasant, the girls natural, spontaneous and dedicated. I also noticed that they were happy. They are always busy, they work hard to make their environment artistic and beautiful by their own efforts, they have good manners and they dress modestly and becomingly. I have noticed no signs of hysteria or exaggerated practices. Nor do I get the feeling of secrecy, though they work through example with words. I have noticed no megalomania, though there is a natural desire to see their movement grow. I have never heard them speak in any way against the Church or Pope. They are a religious, that is, peculiar or revolutionary. Their way of life is based on the idea that one can earn one's salvation simply by doing one's daily task, one's chosen profession, well. When one does one's work for the love of God it will be well done and sanctify the doer. That is why it is called "Opus Dei".

When the Franciscans first started they were considered very dangerous. They went against the prevailing spirit of luxury. We may know that they were a reforming movement within the Church. I think the same will be said of Opus Dei: it is counteracting the present spirit of working only when you are paid well for it and then doing as little as possible. Opus Dei believes in working for love. It may be a very necessary doctrine.

Yours etc,
HILDA MARLIN,
8 Castle Hill,
Berkeley,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr J. D. Barber
Sir, I refer to Mr Harry Biggs-Davison's letter of January 12. Mr Biggs-Davison may think that it is worthy of mention that Opus Dei run boys' clubs and homes around the various halls of residence attached to the universities of London, Manchester and Oxford but I feel that he is missing the point.

As someone who has had first hand experience of the way in which Opus Dei regard, I feel that we should regard these activities with suspicion.

My first six weeks at university were spent at an Opus Dei hall of residence in which I found that every effort was made to impose the standards of Opus Dei upon students who had applied to the hall in complete ignorance. The standards expected were only outlined during one's first week at the hall and awkward questions were simply ignored.

The most dangerous aspect of the work of Opus Dei is its insidious nature. Young boys are always impressionable and respond readily to the image of a hero. The article in *Monday's Times* stated that a youngster could start his training at the age of fourteen which is still a very impressionable age.

My daughter has been completely indoctrinated and her whole personality has changed. I have not seen her for nearly two years, and I now know why, when I read that no holidays are allowed once an "associ-

ates" becomes part of the regimented workings of a house or hostel. She gave up her full-time profession and is now working for the movement as an "associate", doing the menial tasks in a house, which Dr Roche so adequately describes.

I still pray that I may be able to rescue her from the devious workings of this horrific movement, but unfortunately she is so completely under their spell that I now fear for her chance of ever finding happiness. The features of the movement which have been described by Dr Roche are even worse than I feared, but I have certainly for many years now felt that there was an extremely strong hysterical element in the so-called worship of Mr Jose Maria Escrivá, the founder.

There must be other parents like myself with daughters being similarly "used", and I hope and pray that as a result of Dr Roche's revelation we may be able to rescue our misguided children from the clutches of this most devious body of people. I have tried many times in the past to do this, of course, but in view of the events of the past two days I shall leave no stone unturned to make one final bid to get my daughter out of leading a normal and fulfilling life before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
B. STRANGE,
Lodore,
3 Clampton Rise,
Clampton,
Devon.
January 14.

From Miss Jacki Coutinho
Sir, I have been a student for two and a half years at a sixth-form college, run by the members of Opus Dei. I was greatly angered and saddened by your article on Opus Dei (January 12), which, in my opinion, was quite contrary to the behaviour of the members who work at the college.

I would like to stress that far from being psychologically unbalanced, as was implied in *The Times*, the members provide a marvellous and happy environment in the college for both the students and the staff. Many of the staff have in fact commented that they have never experienced such a cheerful and diligent atmosphere in previous schools they have taught in.

I therefore feel that it is a great shame that *The Times* can devote so much time to unjustly criticising Opus Dei which, as I and numerous others have experienced, has given and will continue to give many people a lot of happiness and a sound education.

Yours faithfully,
JACKI COUTINHO,
13 Merton Avenue,
Chislewick, W4.
January 14.

From Mrs B. Strange
Sir, I am writing as a mother whose daughter for the past six years has been a member of the Opus Dei sect. She was not a Catholic, when she joined the movement as a student in London, and was invited to live in one of their hostels. My fears and doubts about the movement over the six years have now been confirmed by John Roche's article, January 12.

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Yours faithfully,
WENDY I. ADAMS,
49a Belmont Avenue,
Streatham, SW16.

From Dr W. I. Adams
Sir, In answer to the comment in the profile of Opus Dei (January 12) "*Chronica* does not use proselytism to refer to gaining converts to Christianity or Catholicism", I was impressed by the example of the members of Opus Dei in their everyday practice of the Catholic faith that I became a convert seven years ago. I am now an ordinary, but happy, wife, mother and recently qualified doctor, who still looks to Opus Dei for encouragement in my practice of Catholicism.

Yours faithfully,
WENDY I. ADAMS,
49a Belmont Avenue,
Streatham, SW16.

From Mr Ron Brown, MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Labour), and others
Sir, You have misled your readers in the caption you provided to our photograph (January 14). The tank has nothing whatsoever to do with the Soviet arrival in Afghanistan in December, 1979, and neither is it a Soviet tank.

It is a memorial erected in central Kabul to the April, 1978 revolution in that country.

Yours sincerely,
RON BROWN,
R. K. LITHERLAND,
ALLAN ROBERTS,
House of Commons.
January 15.

revealed in Richard Clogg's and Phyllis Auty's joint publication, *British Policy towards Wartime Resistance in Yugoslavia and Greece* (Macmillan, 1975).

Yours faithfully,
EDDIE MYERS,
Wheatfield House,
Broadwell,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire.

Stopping the rot

From Professor P. C. Forrester
Sir, Mr Derek Robinson is reported in your issue of January 12 to have said that "determined and united action by the working class was required to halt the decline of manufacturing industry".

His realistic appraisal of the situation is most heartening. Unless all workers, including managers, unite to attack the causes of the decline, such as overmanning, restrictive practices and unearned pay increases, the decline will indeed continue.

Mr Robinson's support for such unified and determined action is exceedingly welcome.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. FORRESTER,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford.

Growing threat to small woodlands

From Mr Charles Watkins
Sir, I read with interest your report (January 5) describing the "insidious and damaging" loss of trees in the countryside. At present, the system of felling licences goes some way towards ensuring the replacement of existing small woodlands and spinneys when felled.

However, the recent review of Forestry Commission administration produced under the auspices of Sir Derek Rayner suggests that the felling of small detached woods of less than 0.25 ha (0.6 acre) should no longer require a licence.

This simplification of administrative procedure will have the effect of considerably increasing the vulnerability of small woodlands and result in the further loss of trees in the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WATKINS,
Senior Common Room,
Hughes Hall,
University Park,
Nottingham.
January 6.

From Mr Donald Sims
Sir, Mr Suddard (January 9) leaves confusion worse confounded. To quote "Dear old moss", the sweet chestnut "is supposed to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans and certainly existed in our islands previous to the Norman conquest", and the sycamore, also "possibly a Roman introduction", has with us "for many centuries". It seems odd, to say the least, to list these with grey alder (introduced in 1780) and southern beech (not before 1830).

Sweet chestnut is abundant on acid soils in southern England and is the predominant species in much of the coppice woodland of Kent and Sussex, and sycamore (the plane tree of Scotland) is the commonest and for wind shelter the most valuable species in much of the north of England. To regard these species as "non-native" is surely unjustifiable, particularly in areas where they have for centuries been among the commonest species, and it only makes matters worse to describe them as "non-native".

Tree planting in the countryside certainly needs to be in sympathy with existing landscapes, and tree species need to be selected with care. The description "non-native" seems to me positively unhelpful if thereby we exclude from general planting tree species that have been with us since Roman times.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD SIMS,
The Green,
Towton,
Cambridge.

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49a Belmont Avenue,
Streatham, SW16.

From Mrs B. Strange
Sir, I am writing as a mother whose daughter for the past six years has been a member of the Opus Dei sect. She was not a Catholic, when she joined the movement as a student in London, and was invited to live in one of their hostels. My fears and doubts about the movement over the six years have now been confirmed by John Roche's article, January 12.

My daughter has been completely indoctrinated and her whole personality has changed. I have not seen her for nearly two years, and I now know why, when I read that no holidays are allowed once an "associ-

ates" becomes part of the regimented workings of a house or hostel. She gave up her full-time profession and is now working for the movement as an "associate", doing the menial tasks in a house, which Dr Roche so adequately describes.

I still pray that I may be able to rescue her from the devious workings of this horrific movement, but unfortunately she is so completely under their spell that I now fear for her chance of ever finding happiness. The features of the movement which have been described by Dr Roche are even worse than I feared, but I have certainly for many years now felt that there was an extremely strong hysterical element in the so-called worship of Mr Jose Maria Escrivá, the founder.

There must be other parents like myself with daughters being similarly "used", and I hope and pray that as a result of Dr Roche's revelation we may be able to rescue our misguided children from the clutches of this most devious body of people. I have tried many times in the past to do this, of course, but in view of the events of the past two days I shall leave no stone unturned to make one final bid to get my daughter out of leading a normal and fulfilling life before it is too late.

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Yours faithfully,
P. C. FORRESTER,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford.

Double vision

From Sir Willie Morris
Sir, The aptest comment on Dr Kissinger's "thinking attack" in Jerusalem (report, January 7) on the European initiative for a Middle East settlement seems to me to come from *The Troubled Partnership*, by Professor H. A. Kissinger, published in the 1960s: "If we face the fact that the interests of Europe and the United States are not identical, it may be possible to agree on a permissible range of divergence."

American policy has been extremely unbalanced. It has argued European unity while recoiling before its probable consequences... the United States will have to reconcile itself to the fact that no matter what structure emerges in Europe, a difference in perspective with the United States will be particularly about policies outside Europe. A wise policy will try to mitigate the impact of this difference; it will not be able to remove it.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIE MORRIS,
2 Abberbury Avenue,
Ilford,
Essex.
January 9.

The value of music

From Professor Peter Wishart
Sir, Few people seem to have grasped the real damage to the future of our nation which would result from throwing music out of the curricular window (letters, December 22 and 27, January 2, 3, 7 and 8).

It is simply that music, along with the other arts, and indeed gardening, woodwork and "other creative" "leisure activities" will become increasingly important in a silicon chip world with far more leisure time, early retirement and the other results of overpopulation (in the context of an increased life expectancy). I have not forgotten sport as a leisure activity, but in most cases that becomes passive in early middle age.

The human soul is at risk, and this is even more important than our export earnings from music, our national reputation and so on.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WISHART,
University of Reading,
Department of Music,
55 Upper Redlands Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.
January 15.

The lady vanishes

From Mr A. K. Galloway
Sir, "It is believed that Lady Diana... travelled incognito on a train from London to King's Lynn" (report, January 15).

How one would have liked more details of this extraordinary feat. Was Lady Diana able to buy a ticket without having to tell the booking clerk her name? Did British Rail not have enough time to fix a large board to the train announcing that she was a passenger? Or did Lady Diana simply refrain from opening the compartment window at every station and shouting her name?

Please can we be told?

Yours, etc.,
A. K. GALLOWAY,
35 Veda Road, SE13.
January 15.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 10, 17 and 24, March 3, 10 and 24, and July 22 and 29, and at Holyroodhouse on July 7.

The Queen will open the Hanover Housing Association and the Guinness Trust Housing Development at Dersingham, Norfolk, on January 26.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, in Zurich, on January 23.

Birthdays today

Lord Boardman, 62; Sir Michael Clapham, 69; Mr Douglas Cleverdon, 78; Mr Martin Cooper, 71; Lord Geoffrey Lloyd, 79; Sir Keith Joseph, 63; Miss Moira Shearer, 55; Professor Sir David Smith, 73; Lord Wheatley, 73.

TOMORROW: Lord Bowden, 71; Mr Cary Grant, 77; Sir James Henderson, 80; Air Marshal Sir Leslie Mavor, 65; Sir Seoborn, 72; Sir Michael Stewart, 70.

US ballet honoured

The Royal Society of Arts has awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal for 1981 to Lincoln Kirstein, director of the School of American Ballet, New York City Ballet Company.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. K. Leslie and Miss S. K. Granville. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr J. M. Leslie, FRCS, and Mrs Leslie, of Folesworth, Leicestershire, and Sarah, daughter of Sir Keith and Lady Granville, of Château d'Oex, Switzerland.

Mr H. E. Brown and Miss C. J. Milne. The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr H. E. Brown, of Transvaal, South Africa, and Claire Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Milne, of Westbury, Old Lane, St John's, Crowborough, Sussex.

Dr C. R. J. Currie and Miss K. R. Gommom. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr C. R. J. Currie and Mrs Currie, of Colwall, near Malvern, Worcestershire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Gommom, of Hardington, Northamptonshire.

Mr D. J. W. Dundas and Miss A. J. Thompson. The engagement is announced between David James William, son of the late Lieutenant-Commander W. J. Dundas, RN, and Mrs A. J. Dundas, of 17 The Parade, Truro, Cornwall, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. E. Thompson, of Sheepwalks Farm, Swindley, Lincoln.

Mr E. Keen and Miss S. Corrie. The engagement is announced between Euan, son of Mr E. Keen, of 110 Beaufort Drive, Horley, Surrey, and Susan, daughter of Mr L. F. Corrie, BEM, and Mrs Corrie, of 15 Longbridge Walk, Horley, Surrey.

Mr D. M. Pepper and Miss S. A. Wood. The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs D. M. Pepper, of Hamp Cottage, Swanwick, Hants, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Wood, of 111 Field Cottage, Sprouton, Suffolk.

Mr L. V. Powell and Miss D. A. Tyler. The engagement is announced between Lewis Vernon Powell, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Doris Alethea Tyler, of Ewell, Surrey.

Marriage

Captain H. G. R. Boscawen and Miss A. M. M. Edna. The marriage took place yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, between Captain Hugh Boscawen, Coldstream Guards, son of the Hon Robert and Mrs Boscawen, and Miss Alexandra Edna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Eden.

Service dinner

RAF Staff College. The Commandant, Air Vice-Marshal M. G. Beavis, and officers of the Royal Air Force Staff College, Cranwell, held a dinner at the college yesterday for Group Captain H. Marshall, President, Colonel I. Neilson and Mr E. Henry were guests of the mess and Wing Commander G. W. Swanwick (ret'd) and Squadron Leader D. A. Wood were dined out. The Deputy Commandant, Air Commodore H. Davidson, attended.

Bank will sponsor

ENO's 'Otello'. English National Opera will present a new production of Verdi's *Otello* this autumn, helped by sponsorship of £75,000 from Barclays Bank. The opera will open on September 10 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and will be conducted by Charles Craig and Rosalind Plowright as Otello and Desdemona.

Church unity as the inspiration for a wider ecumenism

Another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins next week. Those who have participated on previous occasions may well reflect that many of their prayers have been answered. While little full institutional reunion has been achieved in Britain, relations between the churches have been transformed and working towards unity has become established policy. Yet the very success of this enterprise has brought a decline of enthusiasm. The closer churches have drawn together, the clearer it has become that the problems they have in common are not so easily solved.

This makes it timely to remember that the ecumenical movement means more than efforts to promote church cooperation with a view to eventual reunion. In its formative period, leading to the establishment of the World Council of Churches in 1948, it arose out of a fresh insight into the need for a deeper understanding of their world-

wide mission and called their attention to neglected aspects of that mission. It was primarily a movement for theological and social renewal.

This gave a powerful impetus to efforts to achieve reunion but the early ecumenical leaders never regarded union as an end in itself. They knew that, without fresh insight, it might even intensify the difficulties in the way of renewal. All the broken parts of the Christian community stand under divine judgment. Merely to piece together one or two of them without internal transformation might result only in making a larger and more awkward fragment and the effort to do so could distract Christians from more urgent tasks.

That the effort has proved so difficult among the slow-moving British churches suggests the need for a revision of ecumenical priorities. The publication of the proposals for a covenant relation between the Church of England and some of the Free Churches, which managers only to offer a formula for the mutual legitimizing of their professional minis-

tries, confirms this need. Churches must continue to struggle towards institutional reunion, and this will inevitably involve much detailed negotiation, but even this effort is likely to be more effective if more attention is paid to the larger issues which their ecumenical mission raises.

To give examples. In its inception, the European Community owed more than is now usually realized to leaders of the ecumenical movement. What can be said from a Christian point of view about the way which the Community has developed, especially now that Britain is a member? The main focus of the World Council has shifted recently from Europe and North America to the east and south. In view of their remarkable missionary history, have the British churches still anything distinctive to offer, especially in the light of the Islamic revival and the political changes which have taken place in Africa and Asia? On our domestic level, have enough sustained efforts even yet been made to resolve theological differences between

the churches over other matters than those concerning ministerial status? Has discussion of reunion itself been preoccupied too much with the internal relations of churches with each other and not enough with their responsibilities in the community as a whole? Ecumenical insight suggests that we are unlikely to hear a fresh word about the renewal of the churches themselves unless we try to hear a fresh word about the renewal of the wider community of which they are a part.

Modern communications have unified the world as never before. In consequence, ecumenical movements of a sort have arisen in science and the arts and sport and popular entertainment and even in industry, as well as in the more obvious sphere of international relations. The churches should see their own ecumenical movement as the precursor of these and recognize that, if their Christian claim is to be justified, they must continue to show that it is possible to become worldwide and to dispose of great resources without becoming arrogant, exploitative

and competitive on levels where competition is inappropriate. They will recognize that the greater the concentration of power the greater the possibility of corruption and, therefore, the more essential the need for self-criticism and restraint. They will also know that, since creative movements begin in a small way, large-scale activities involving many participants will widely differing interests, do well to be unpretentious and realistic in the expectations they arouse. To be truly ecumenical means not to try to join the star-studded circuit of international celebrities but to show how, in the presence of the kingdoms of this world and all the glory of them, including their television cameras, it is yet possible to have a pure heart and a servant's heart. As long as the churches understand ecumenism in this way, they are not likely to suffer any decline of enthusiasm when they find their prayers for greater unity being answered.

Daniel Jenkins
Minister, Regent Square
United Reformed Church

OBITUARY

MR DAVID E. LILIENTHAL
Central role in TVA and Atomic Energy Commission

Mr David E. Lilienthal, former chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, died in New York on January 15. He was 81.

Lilienthal devoted 19 years to Federal service, first as a director of the Federal power and flood-control programme of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and later establishing civilian control over the nuclear energy development programme, with the development of modern resources for the benefit of his own and succeeding generations as his goal.

His first appointment came in 1933, when President Roosevelt made him one of a triumvirate to head the TVA. He left the chairmanship of the authority to accept an appointment by President Truman as first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission in October, 1946.

He took control of the nation's nuclear development programme from the military, and led the commission in further developing the atomic bomb and in beginning to develop nuclear energy for peaceful industrial and medical use.

David Eli Lilienthal was born in Morton, Illinois, on July 8, 1899. His father, Leo, and his mother, Rose, were immigrants from Czechoslovakia. He studied at DePaul University in Indiana, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1920, and at Harvard Law School, where he obtained a Doctor of Laws degree in 1923. There he was influenced by Professor Felix Frankfurter, who aroused his interest in the conservation and development of natural resources.

Under his original constitution the TVA was set up in 1933. Morgan, who was an engineer, undertook dam-building projects. Dr Harcourt Morgan, the second member, assumed responsibility for fertilizer production. Lilienthal was in charge of the TVA's power programme. But differences arose between the chairman and Lilienthal. The chairman favoured maintaining a long-term peace with the private power companies, with the TVA's rates set up as surcharges on the basis of the charges the private power industry levied on the private utilities by selling cheaper TVA power through the municipalities in the area.

The differences became public in 1938, after Lilienthal had been reappointed and Arthur Morgan demanded a Congressional investigation. Roosevelt removed the chairman after a hearing, and Harcourt Morgan was chosen to succeed him.

Mr Wendell L. Wilkie, president of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, the chief utility holding company in the TVA region, was Lilienthal's principal antagonist. Wilkie claimed that Lilienthal had rejected all offers of arbitration between the authority and the private companies.

But the TVA became an established institution, studied and imitated by countries in various parts of the world. He was the chief negotiator for TVA of its purchase of Commonwealth and Southern Properties worth \$78,600,000. The success of the negotiations was indicated when, on January 27, 1939, he was appointed vice chairman of the TVA. On February 1 the deal was closed.

Lilienthal then became chairman on September 15, 1941, and as the likelihood of America entering the Second World War grew, he rapidly expanded TVA's power programme to meet the needs of private war plants and its own munitions manufacturing plants.

At the end of the war it was disclosed that the centre of production for the Manhattan Engineer District, a scientific project of the Army, had been developed at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near Knoxville, to take advantage of TVA's vast supplies of cheap power and water.

On May 2, 1945, Truman reappointed Lilienthal to a nine-year term as TVA chairman, which he did not complete. On January 23, 1946, he became chairman of a board of

consultants appointed by the State Department to assist the Secretary's committee on atomic energy in developing a plan for controlling atomic energy production, and safeguarding peaceful nations against aggression from nations that had the atomic bomb.

The committee's report was called the Acheson-Lilienthal Report after its principal authors, Under-Secretary Dean Acheson and the chairman, and was the basis for subsequent international planning on atomic energy control.

When the Atomic Energy Commission was established in 1946 to take under civilian control an army project Lilienthal, the logical candidate for the job, was appointed by Truman. He took office on January 1, 1947.

However, Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, had begun a full-scale fight to block his nomination, partly because Lilienthal had obstructed political patronage. McKellar's attitude rallied support for Lilienthal and the Senate vote, on April 9, 1947, was 50 for confirmation, 31 against.

Lilienthal threw himself into the task of expanding production of atomic bombs. He warned that the United States was losing ground in the international race to develop atomic energy.

His administrative policy in the few years followed several lines. He sought to build up the stockpile of atomic weapons and pressed for atomic weapons development. At the same time he sought to spur the use of nuclear fission in private industry.

Opposition to Lilienthal in Congress, however, appeared. Truman nominated him for a five-year term on April 20, 1948, but on May 18 the President had to agree to a compromise, extending his term only to June 30, 1950. In 1949, Lilienthal had to fight charges of "incredible mismanagement" but he was absolved.

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, was rapidly catching up in the United States in the area of atomic weapons. The revived charges, which Lilienthal had raised earlier, of whether the United States should undertake a crash programme to develop the hydrogen bomb.

He was about to resign, but he postponed his departure to take part in the deliberations of the Atomic Energy Commission. The question, Lilienthal had no objection in principle to producing any sort of weapon, but he weighed the practical problems carefully. If the country diverted scarce resources to the hydrogen bomb programme and it failed, it might fall behind in atomic production.

By a vote of 4 to 1, and then 3 to 2, the majority of the commission, including Lilienthal, considered the risk too big to take. But the minority, led by Lewis L. Strauss, was insistent that the United States should continue a programme of continuous government service, became effective on February 15, 1950. After a lecture tour, he travelled in Europe, Africa and Asia. He then went to work at the bank of Lazard Frères and Company, serving as an industrial consultant.

Later, he made the initial plans for TVA-type projects in India and Pakistan, and in Colombia, helped to plan the recovery of the western sector of Berlin, and accepted posts in private business. In 1952 he became president of Mineral Separation, an industrial minerals producer, and in 1953 chairman and chief executive officer of the Development and Research Corporation.

He was the author of several books including: *Democracy in the March* (1944), which was translated into 20 languages; *This Do Better* (1948); *Big Business: A New Era* (1953); *The Multinational Corporation* (1960); *Change, Hope and the Bomb* (1963); six volumes of journals published between 1964 and 1976, and *Atomic Energy* in New York (1980).

He married in 1923 Helen Marian Lamb. She survives him with a son and a daughter.

SIR JOHN NICOLL

Sir John Nicoll, KCMG, who was Governor of Singapore from 1952 to 1955, died on January 12, aged 81.

An administrator in a number of diverse colonies, John Nicoll went to Carlisle Grammar School and Pembroke College, Oxford. He was in the 1914-18 war, where he was a lieutenant, and in 1921 he began a colonial career that was to culminate in the governorship of Singapore.

He joined the administration of British North Borneo, and in 1925 entered the Colonial Service when he went to Tanganyika. After 12 years there, which was the end of his African posting, he moved to an entirely different part of the Empire as Deputy Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, in 1937.

After seven years there, he was again promoted, this time as Secretary, Fiji, in 1944. His next move—to an area quite foreign to him—was in the same grade as Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, in 1949 at the age of 50. He joined there the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, whose governorship of Fiji he had served. Three years later he became Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Singapore, retiring in 1955.

Of a quiet frame and not entirely unattractive disposition, Nicoll was a strong leader. His forte was in secretarial posts. In his higher positions he did not immerse himself easily in the spirit of the races among whom he resided: he travelled little and was remote from the feel of district or rural life. He had a dignified, a shrewd brain, considerable acumen and a nervousness which he almost totally concealed.

His wife Irene, whom he married in 1939 in Trinidad, survives him with a son.

OLGA WINOGRADSKY

Olga Winoogradsky, who died yesterday in London, aged approximately 94, was the wife of the Grade brothers, the trio of show-business agents and impresarios who have played a dominant part in British light entertainment for the last 40 years.

She was born in Alexandrovsk in the Ukraine in 1887, or so she thought. She arrived with her husband Isaac and two small sons, Lew and Bernard, in London in 1910, with theatrical certificates or other documents, and she was never sure of her year of birth. Both she and her husband had been on the stage as semi-professionals, singing and acting.



Photograph by Peter Trivier

Brigadier Vera Margaret Rooke, new Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services, in her office yesterday.

Archaeology report

Prehistoric astronomy: Symbolic doubts

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent.
The theory, which has gained wide acceptance in recent years, that the ancient Egyptians were meticulously designed observatories or eclipse predictors, has been challenged by one of the leading scholars in the field of prehistoric astronomy. Mr Aubrey Burl, author of *Prehistoric Astronomy* and other works, concludes in his article that the theory is "a theory rather than a science" and that the evidence is "a jumble of scraps" rather than a coherent whole.

His alternative explanation is that the alignments were "symbolic rather than scientific" and were linked with death, "starting a purpose with burial mounds and sometimes found in close association with them."

Expanding the site of Ballochroy, Argyle, one of the most important prehistoric sites proposed by Professor Thom, Mr Burl concludes that the proposed observation lines are either too imprecise or could not have been used in prehistory: a general alignment of the midwinter sunset as part of the sun and moon, including such phenomena as "moon wobble" at the major standstill every 19 years.

As a test case Mr Burl has examined the group of recumbent stone circles in the foot-hills of the Grampians, in north-east Scotland, each of which, he feels, was erected by a family or clan. The circles are arranged in a line, and the alignment of the stones is such that they could be used to observe the midwinter sunset.

Mr Burl points out that "no astronomical case has been made for a group of monuments collectively," so that although individual stone alignments may have plausible astronomical orientations, the group as a whole does not. This lack of consistency between communities who might have been expected to have had common concerns has led Mr Burl to suggest that some of the supposed astronomical alignments are fortuitous discoveries, unrelated to the theory of the megalithic structures.

The work of Professor Alexander Thom advanced the hypothesis that some circles, from the most complex such as Stonehenge and Avebury, were used as observatories. Mr Burl suggests that these circles are either too imprecise or could not have been used in prehistory: a general alignment of the midwinter sunset as part of the sun and moon, including such phenomena as "moon wobble" at the major standstill every 19 years.

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The work of Professor Alexander Thom advanced the hypothesis that some circles, from the most complex such as Stonehenge and Avebury, were used as observatories. Mr Burl suggests that these circles are either too imprecise or could not have been used in prehistory: a general alignment of the midwinter sunset as part of the sun and moon, including such phenomena as "moon wobble" at the major standstill every 19 years.

Mr Burl concludes that "no star or planet can be fitted to the alignments" and that the theory is "a theory rather than a science" and that the evidence is "a jumble of scraps" rather than a coherent whole.

Treasure finds impoverish Scots museum

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, 200 years old today, fears that it could be financially embarrassed by the riches that are presented to it.

Last year the museum paid out about £50,000 in rewards to the public for treasure trove, including £40,000 to an Easter Ross crofter who stumbled upon a Bronze Age hoard.

Mr Alexander Fenton, its director and secretary, said that that one acquisition swallowed up a large part of the museum's purchase grant for the entire year.

Mr Fenton said that the museum's annual report published today urges that treasure trove rewards should have special subsidies and should not have to count against the museum's normal purchasing fund.

Scots law differs from that in England in that it gives greater security to archaeological finds in Scotland but creating financial difficulties for museums.

Exactly 200 years ago a Bronze Age metalworker's hoard from Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, lay buried in a peat bog.

Since then the museum has accumulated a variety of superb material which last year attracted 20,000 visitors, the highest number for 10 years.

Further he is not prepared to go: "We have no more than the slightest insight into the symbolism of these remote prehistoric monuments, in which there was little separation between science and symbolism and in which every natural object was imbued with a sacred existence, something to be manipulated to man's advantage through charms, talismans, dead bones, shells and ceremonies."

Whether the burgeoning school of archaeoastronomers is prepared to take his attack in a recumbent position remains to be seen. Source: *Antiquity*, 54, 191-198 (1980).

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Services tomorrow:

Second Sunday after

Epiphany

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 10.30. Holy Communion. 11.30. Epiphany. 12.30. Epiphany. 1.30. Epiphany. 2.30. Epiphany. 3.30. Epiphany. 4.30. Epiphany. 5.30. Epiphany. 6.30. Epiphany. 7.30. Epiphany. 8.30. Epiphany. 9.30. Epiphany. 10.30. Epiphany. 11.30. Epiphany. 12.30. Epiphany.

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Science report

Agriculture: Effects from eruptions

By the Staff of Nature
The volcanic ash that settled on a large area of the north-western United States after the eruptions of Mount St Helens in the state of Washington last May, June and July, seems to have done less damage to the agriculture of the region than initially feared.

A survey by four agricultural scientists based in Pullman, Washington, in the centre of the affected area, shows that most losses to the main crops in eastern Washington have been offset by the favourable conditions that followed the eruptions. Even insect populations that suffered severely are recovering well without drastic disruption to their role as pollinators.

The chief fear yet to be resolved is that the ash may have a long-term effect on the soil's temperature and capacity to hold water.

Insects suffered because the abrasive particles of ash damaged their protective, waxy outer covering, leaving them open to desiccation. The worst affected were valuable insects, including honey and pollinator bees. However, the timing of the eruptions and the bees' subsequent recovery seems to have prevented severe losses of honey or seeds. Some insect pests were destroyed and the loss of grasshoppers in some areas saved

farmers the expense of spraying with insecticides. Wheat used for harvesting at the time of the eruptions will lose some of its value as a winter crop because of the ash contaminating the grain. But winter wheat crops are expected to suffer, in spite of having been flattened by the ash in some areas, the high rainfall in last year's winter is expected to have led to a record crop.

The forage crop alfalfa was badly flattened in some areas, and the loss of alfalfa reduced the value of the alfalfa hay subsequently harvested. However, previous observations indicated that volcanic ash does no harm to livestock when present in forage.

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Rugged night

Boston, Jan. 15.—Marvin Hagler, the world middleweight champion, makes what promises to be a rugged first defence of his title tomorrow night against undefeated Fulgencio Obelmejias, of Venezuela.

Hagler, the only champion recognised by both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and the World Boxing Association (WBA), is favoured to retain the crown he won from Britain's Alan Miller last September in London, but Obelmejias, who has stopped 25 of

for Hagler

his 30 opponents in compiling a perfect professional record, is not the champion of pushover opponents. The champion sometimes opt for when putting a newly-acquired title at stake.

The challenger stands 6ft 2in which gives him a four-inch height advantage over Hagler. His reach is longer, too. He also possesses a fighting job which he uses to score opponents up for the fight.

Hagler better be careful, though, as he can knock you out with one punch," says Willie Warren, a recent victim of the Venezuelan.

Navratilova, who defeated Acker, 6-4, seeded No 2, while Russell, 6-1, Lathrop, 6-1, and Galt, 6-4, 5-6, 6-4.

Earlier Vito Romanita, the No 1 seed, was defeated to the semi-final seventh-seeded Yugoslavia, 6-4.

In first-round Dupont and defeated Sandi Lembourg, 7-6.

RESULTS:
Navratilova beat 8. Latham 6-0
Acker 6-4
A. Anastasiu, 7-6
Lathrop 6-1
Final round: V. Romanita 6-4
M. Jusuotac 6-4

[illegible]

McEnroe's record stands for a twin's event at Madison Square Garden, 19,103, watched Borg, the five times Wimbledon champion, defeat McEnroe by 6-4, 6-7, 7-5, in an encounter marked by an uncharacteristic display of temper from the American. He was rebuffed by him and by sportsmanship from McEnroe, the top seed.

McEnroe's defeat, his second in two nights, ended his chances of reaching the last four and precluding a possible second meeting with Borg in the final. Sunday's Jimmy Connors, a former Masters champion, Ivan Lendl and Mayer also progressed to the semifinal round of the eight-man, round-robin event.

After finding himself within three votes of defeat in the

apparently asked Mr. Lugs whether he would have the right to lead in the first demonstrated with Mr. McEnroe minutes by the crowd and, after issuing a penalizing Borg a wave of boos continued to argue, secured a second point, McEnroe ahead 6-3. Borg returned to the court with the crowd cheering and lost the point to the normally un-ude had been penal-ized. The rules Mr Lugs rights in reversing

McEnroe beat McEnroe 6-3, 6-0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Cler the American did not seem to be trying. Cler said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or no. But I felt good today and what I cared about was beating him for money. In the second set he served his service so well and had so many passing shots that I earned the win. Counting today's match, I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

United match is one of many casualties

many casualties

The Pools Panel is ready to sit for the first time this season as widespread snow has threatened to disrupt today's Football League programme. Fourteen matches on the coup d'etat have already been postponed—most of them in Scotland—and only another four need to be called off for the panel to sit to decide the outcome of today's matches.

The first big casualty in England was the match between Sunderland and Manchester United at Roker Park. Sunderland called in local rain to get George Lyson, and he had no hesitation in postponing the first division fixture as the pitch was covered by frozen snow. Instructions are being sent to several grounds including Norwich, where the match against Liverpool will get ahead, and Luton who are scheduled to play in the second division.

Last night's results

Third division		
Fulham	2	Barnesley
		(1-1-2)

By Alan Gibson

[illegible]

Golf

'Iron man' who sits in the umpire's chair

Michael Lugg, the umpire from Lincolnshire, who surprised the spectators at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night by penning Stjora Borg, two points, is gaining a reputation as the "iron man" of tennis umpiring — yet he is better known outside this country.

He is a member of the Professional Tennis Umpires Federation, which was outlawed by the state establishment four years

ago, but his no-nonsense approach has made him a popular official among the leading players.

During the Benson & Hedges tournament at Wembley in November he was in charge of the match during which John McEnroe carried on an argument with a woman spectator. Mr Lugg persuaded the volatile American to play again without having to penalise him, and it was significant that against the odds Mike McEnroe was on his best behaviour.

Mr Lugg's decision to penalise Borg came as no surprise to his father, Sean. He said he had been in Louth yesterday: "Mike knows the rules. It would not matter to him that it was a peaceful fellow like Borg who was offending for the first time in his life."

Mr Lugg, a former member of

the official Lawn Tennis Umpires' Association who control most of the tournaments in this country including Wimbledon, was one of their members who led the break-away four years ago.

for Borg

next five points and force the first tiebreak. The victory was Borg's seventh over McEnroe in 11 meetings and his fifth in their last six matches.

In earlier play Lendl, armed with a vastly-improved serving, defeated Connors, Vilas 7-5, 6-4 and Gimeno; back at his fighting best, won warm applause from the crowd when he gained a

McEnroe beat McEnroe 6-3, 6-0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Cler the American did not seem to be trying. Cler said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or no. But I felt good today and what I cared about was beating him for money. In the second set he served his service so well and had so many passing shots that I earned the win. Counting today's match, I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

Discussion

drop shot to overcome José Luis Clerc 6-3, 7-5.

Clerc bested McEnroe 6-3, 6-0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Clerc the American did not seem to be trying. Clerc said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to win or no. But I felt good today and what I cared about was beating him. In the second set, I returned his service so well and had so many passing shots that I earned the win. Counting today's match, I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

Rugged night for Hagler

Clerc 6-3, 7-5.
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Exit for Miss Turnbull

next five points and force the first tiebreak. The victory was Borg's sixth over McEnroe in their last meetings and his fifth in their last six matches.

In earlier play Lendl, armed with a vastly-improved service, defeated Guillermo Vilas 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 and Connors, at his fighting best, won warm applause from the crowd when he gained a one-sided 6-2, 6-4 victory over Harold Solomon. Mayer, who beat McEnroe in the quarterfinals, lost the first two sets of his quarterfinal match, used chances of pace and his drop shot to overcome José Luis Clerc 6-3, 7-5.

Clerc beat McEnroe 6-3, 6-0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Clerc the American did not seem to be trying. Clerc said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or not. But I felt he was giving up and what I cared about was beating him. In the second set, I returned his service so well and had so many passing shots and I beat the Brit. Connors' next match, I have new beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

First the good news, then the bad for Borg

next five points and forced the first tiebreak. The victory was Borg's seventh over McEnroe in 11 meetings and his fifth in their last six matches.

In earlier play, Leand, armed with a vastly improved serve, defeated Guillermo Vilas 7-5, 6-4 and Connors, back at his fighting best, won warm applause from the crowd when he gained a blood-soaked 6-2, 4-6 victory over Harold Solomon. Mayer, who beat McEnroe in three sets on Wednesday, used changes of pace and his drop shot to overcome José Luis Clerc 6-3, 7-5.

Clerc beat Mc Enroe 6-3, 5-0 tonight so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against the American did not seem to be crying. Cler said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or no. But I felt good today and I think I earned about 100,000 beating him. In the second set, I returned his service so well and had so many passing shots that I earned 100,000. I think I earned 100,000. I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

'Iron man' who sits in the umpire's chair

Michael Lugg's Career

Michael Lugg, the umpire from Lancashire, who surprised the spectators at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night by penalizing Bjorn Borg two points, for gaining a reputation as the "iron man" of tennis umpiring, says he is better known outside his country.

He is a member of the Professional Tennis Umpires' Federation, which was outlawed by the British Tennis Association some time ago, but his no-nonsense approach has made him a popular official among the leading players.

During the Benson & Hedges tournament at Wimbledon in November he was in charge of the match during which John McEnroe carried on an argument with a woman spectator. Mr Lugg persuaded the volatile American to apologise, again without penalizing him, and it was significant that against Borg last night McEnroe was on his best behaviour.

Mr Lugg's decision to penalise Borg came as no surprise to his friends. "Borg is a bit of a brat," says a man, "but he is in London yesterday." "Mike doesn't know the rules. It would not matter to him that it was a peaceful fellow like Borg who was interfering for the first time in his life."

Mr Lugg, a former member of the official Lawn Tennis Association, has been in control most of the tournaments in this country since 1961. He was one of the few members who led the breakaway four years ago.

Borg

...next five points and force the first tiebreak. The victory was Borg's seventh over McEnroe in 11 meetings and his fifth in their last six matches.

In earlier play Lendl, armed with a vastly-improved service, defeated Guillermo Vilas 7-5, 6-3, and Chris Evert, after a hard-fought best, won warm applause from the crowd when he gained a one-sided 6-2, 6-4 victory over Harold Solomon. Mayer, who beat McEnroe in his first match on Wimbledon, used changes of pace and his drop shot to overcome José Luis Clerc 6-3, 7-5.

Clerc beat Mc Enroe 6-3, 6-0 in a contest so McEnroe bowed out of the tournament without winning a match. Against Clerc the American did not seem to be trying. Clerc said: "I don't know if McEnroe really tried to play or not. I don't know if he was and what I cared about was beating him. In the second set, I returned his service so well and had so many passing shots that I led 4-0 in the fourth. Courtch, I have now beaten John three times out of eight—once for the Davis Cup."—Agencies.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الأصل

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Inflation rate edges down for seventh month running

By Melvyn Westlake

Price inflation edged down further in December to give a year-on-year rate of 15.1 per cent. It was the seventh consecutive month to show a declining trend, and compared with a year-on-year figure of 15.3 per cent in November. A further, and sharper, drop is expected for January.

Figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment show that the retail price index rose by 0.5 per cent last month, slightly below the rate of monthly increase seen in the autumn.

Government ministers have, however, recently preferred to stress the underlying rate of price increases. This measures the annual rate of increase in prices over the past six months, excluding seasonal factors.

On that basis, inflation is now down to 8 per cent—the lowest underlying rate for more than two years.

It compares to an underlying rate of 13.6 per cent in May, 1979, when the present Government came to power.

But, it is admitted in Whitehall that this measure of inflation probably understates the real position at the moment.

This is because it excludes the spring months when some of the largest price increases are recorded, notably for local authority rates and rents. Budgetary increases also have an influence on retail prices at that time of the year.

But there is no doubt that the rate at which inflation has been falling has surprised even the Government. Most economic forecasters, both inside and outside Government, now expect that the year-on-year measure of inflation will be down nearly to single figures by the end of this year.

At the time of the mid-Budget, last November, the Treasury predicted that the retail price index would show a decline of 14 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1980 and the fourth quarter of 1981.

The decline in inflation is being helped by the firmness of the pound on the foreign exchange market, which has reduced the cost of Britain's raw materials.

At the same time, the recession and stiff foreign competition has put a brake on the price

that British industry charges for its products. Factory-gate prices in December showed the smallest rise for any month since at least the middle 1970s.

The main upward pressure on prices is continuing to come from the wage increases that occurred earlier this year, and from higher tariffs for the goods and services supplied by the nation's industries.

Unit labour costs showed another sharp rise in the third quarter of last year, according to figures produced yesterday. Over the economy as a whole, unit labour costs are estimated to have risen by 2.1 per cent since the July-September period, after an even larger rise of 23.2 per cent in the previous three months.

Both increases are markedly faster than those seen in previous quarters, which were in the order of 16 to 17 per cent.

This reflects broadly the rise in average earnings over the last year. In spite of the smaller wage settlements that are now taking place, the underlying

rise in average earnings is still running at about 20 per cent.

At the same time, while prices overall have risen by 15 per cent during the last year, the charges of nationalised industries have risen by double that figure. This is because of the jump in energy and transport prices, as well as postage and telephone tariffs.

The rise in the retail price index last month resulted mainly from higher rail fares, food prices and average prices for gas and telephones. Food price increases included those for fresh meat and vegetables and bread.

Britain's inflation rate is still above the average for the other big industrialised countries, which was about 12.5 per cent in November. Only Italy had a higher inflation rate than Britain, but in none of the other countries was the rate of price increases declining as fast as here.

Britain's inflation rate is thus expected to fall below the average for these other countries during the next few months.

£246m trade surplus despite higher imports

By David Blake

Economics Editor

Britain had a £246m surplus on an estimated surplus of £100m for trade in invisibles, the current account surplus was £346m.

The large surplus on Britain's current account was one of the biggest economic surprises of 1980, because the Treasury initially predicted a large deficit.

The improvement came partly because sterling turned out to have a much higher value than expected, which meant that more was received for the goods sold abroad and less paid for those imported.

The problems caused by this situation are starting to become clear, as British exporters find it harder and harder to sell overseas. The value of exports fell in December to £3,929m from £3,960m in November and the volume dropped very sharply.

If export items are excluded, the volume of exports dropped to an index of 123.5 in December, down from 131.7 in November, which seems to have been a freak month.

It is now clear that the volume of exports started to deteriorate during the winter. The Confederation of British Industry last night gave a warning that exports were unlikely to hold up.

Export prices have been flat over the past five months, which means a tremendous squeeze on profits at a time when industrial costs are increasing, the CBI said.

The volume of imports fell even more sharply than exports for most of last year because the recession in Britain was more severe than with most of our trading partners.

There are signs that the tide may have turned here as well, however, with increased imports of consumer goods coming into the country because they are now more competitive than their British equivalents.

The volume of imports, excluding erratic items, went up to an index of 114.7, compared to an index of 113.8 in November. The index for both exports and imports is based on a 1975 level of 100.

The latest recovery still left the volume of imports well down on earlier in the year. In the fourth quarter, the volume, excluding erratic items, was down by 6.5 per cent on the third quarter of the year.

There was a sharp rise in the value of imports, which went up to £3,683m.

During 1980 as a whole there was a surplus of £280m on trade in oil and a surplus of £759m on trade in other goods. The rest of the £2,818m surplus on current account was provided by a surplus on invisibles.

For the current year, the last published forecast by the Treasury was that there would be a surplus of £2,000m. Much will depend on the growth of export markets and the extent to which the economy recovers.

In the three months to the end of November, total industrial output was down 3.6 per cent on the previous quarter. Manufacturing output was down by 4.5 per cent. Steel recovered to a slightly more normal level, but remained depressed, as did textiles and clothing.

Massey-Ferguson reaches deal with creditors on refinancing

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Massey-Ferguson reached agreement in principle on a \$500m (£285m) equity refinancing plan with bank creditors meeting in London, a company spokesman said last night. No significant change in the terms of the refinancing scheme were involved, he added.

Senior executives of Massey-Ferguson, including Mr Victor Rice its president had spent all day yesterday at the Dorchester Hotel talking with representatives of big lending institutions to which the ailing Canadian-based farm machinery group owes about Can \$1,500m.

Representatives of lesser lenders were waiting for an outcome. The agreement will still have to be discussed with each individual institution that has lent money to Massey-Ferguson.

There are about 250 of these and only 50 institutions were represented at the meetings between the banks and the company. Several of the creditors were effectively represented by only a few. Of a dozen Italian banks involved only five attended.

The solution towards which the banks and Massey-Ferguson were working was the conversion of some of the debt into shares of the company. The discussion centred on the rescheduling of about Can\$700m of the debt. The general idea is that \$350m would be attributed to international banks, \$150m



Mr Victor Rice, Massey president: all-day talks with creditors on refinancing deal

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would be to the Canadian Imperial Bank while \$200m will be guaranteed by the Canadian Government and raised from Canadian institutions.

British banks stand among the main creditors of Massey-Ferguson. The clearing banks are owed close to £200m. The largest British creditors are Barclays Bank with total loans of £50m and net exposure, after stripping out guarantees by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, is £23m.

The ECGD alone has given guarantees of £115m, some of which would be lost if Massey-Ferguson was allowed to become insolvent.

The size of the debt owed by Massey-Ferguson and the possible impact on the employment in several countries is one reason why the lending institutions, some of which are state-owned, seem to take a reasonably generous view.

The company has cut back on some of its major activities, especially in the building machinery division, and intends to concentrate on its farm machinery business.

Meanwhile, however, that the company would eventually come through helped the share price, which rose by 5p to 170p on the London stock market yesterday.

700 jobs to go in foods and printing within next three months

By Derek Harris and
R. W. Shakespeare

Three more companies have announced redundancies involving the loss of more than 700 jobs.

Smalley HP Foods, part of Imperial Group, is cutting a third of its fruit and vegetable canning capacity by closing down its Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, factory, with the loss of 480 jobs. There was little chance of alternative jobs being offered when the closure takes effect on April 17, the company said.

It will be Smalley's fourth canning factory closure within two years because of a decline in sales of canned foods.

Since 1973, sales of canned vegetables have declined 26 per cent, and canned fruit sales have halved as both frozen and fresh foods have taken bigger shares of the market.

Smalley's fruit and vegetable operations had made substantial losses in recent years, the company said.

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Mr Cope said that in spite of the cutbacks, new and existing customers would continue to receive service on their machinery and spare parts.

These latest redundancies are the third big blow to jobs in the Manchester area this week. Earlier Schreiber, the furniture manufacturer, announced 475 redundancies at Trafford Park and the Manchester Ship Canal Company said it would reduce its labour force by at least 300.

Short time work: The printing division of Oxford University Press (OUP) is running at half its capacity, and its bindery, capable of handling 100,000 books a week, is on short time. The company said that redundancies among the 590 employees could not be ruled out. OUP is not expected to return to the volume of business to which it has been geared. Long running reprint orders are declining.

Mr E. Buckley, printer to OUP, expected turnover, running at £6m to £7m in recent years, to be lower over 1981-82.

Commercial vehicles head at BL resigns

By Edward Townsend

Mr David Abell, 38-year-old managing director of the commercial vehicle subsidiary of BL and widely regarded as one of the state-owned company's most successful executives, has resigned from his post yesterday.

Leyland Vehicles also revealed yesterday that it was at an advanced stage of negotiations with Suter Electrical, the Lancashire-based company, in which Mr Abell is a shareholder, for the sale of Prestcold, BL's commercial refrigeration business which it has been attempting to sell for the past two years.

In a statement, LVL said that Mr Abell intended to devote all his time to his interests in Suter, which makes hair salon equipment and is a wholesaler for car equipment.

Negotiations on the Prestcold deal are expected to take until at least the end of next month with the purchase price probably around £10m.

Mr Abell said last night: "I am ambitious to build up a major group of companies and Prestcold is the first step forward. It will be run on a small central staff with the companies as autonomous units."

Although Mr Abell expects to move more towards the distribution sector rather than heavy manufacturing, Prestcold will continue in manufacturing. An attraction of Prestcold was its strength in distribution.

On Wednesday, Suter halted dealings in the company's shares after two weeks in which the ordinary and deferred shares rose by 21p. The two classes of shares were suspended at 66p and 64p, giving the company a value of £5.32m.

Mr Abell has been with BL since 1968 and has held a number of posts, including senior positions with Leyland Australia and BL Special Products. He became chairman of BL Commercial Vehicles and chairman and managing director of LVL in 1979.

The company said that in future the truck and bus operations of BL would be known as the Leyland Group and the principal operating company as LVL. Mr David Andrews, executive vice chairman of BL, said in addition to being chairman of the Leyland Group and is responsible for the Aivis military vehicle company and Coventry Climax.

Mr Abell is replaced by Mr Ron Hancock who has been



Mr Ron Hancock: wide industrial experience.

managing director of Leyland Australia for the last two and a half years. Mr Hancock, who is 46, becomes managing director of the Leyland Group and chairman of LVL.

The company said Mr Hancock had wide and successful industrial experience having been employed by Mollard and Schweppes before joining BL in 1968.

He was managing director of BL's truck and bus manufacturing operation in India before returning to the United Kingdom to establish the SU Bute group of companies where he was managing director before his appointment to Australia.

Settlement near in AT & T case

Washington, Jan 16.—The United States government and American Telephone and Telegraph Co. appeared on the verge of completing a settlement of the government's civil anti-trust case against AT&T.

Mr Harold Green, a Federal Judge, today described the settlement talks as "essentially complete".

He said the parties informed him on Wednesday that a "concrete detailed" agreement had been reached. He said the parties told him that no "complex or controversial features remained to be resolved".

After delaying the trial until February 2, the judge said he was prepared to give both sides an additional 30-day delay to "iron out the language of the agreement and to officially file it as a proposed consent decree".

He said he would resume the trial on March 4 if a completed decree has not been submitted to him by then.

Once testimony by witnesses begins, however, federal law would enable any private party suing AT&T for damages to use a consent decree signed after that date to prove its case.

For that reason AT&T's vulnerability to anti-trust damage suits would be substantially increased if it agreed to a settlement after testimony began.

Opening arguments in the long-delayed trial of the six-year-old case began on Thursday and continued today. But after the company had concluded its opening statements shortly after noon today, the judge recessed the trial.

And despite a 3 per cent volume fall operating profit, was only 5 per cent lower at £3.8m.

Profits from leisure products fell from £1m to £543,000 and Letraset plans to sell this division to raise between £2.5m and £3m. Negotiations are at an advanced stage, although there will be a £1m book loss on the sale. The interim dividend has been held, as will the final.

Letraset saw the acquisition of Stanley Gibbons as a way of diversifying from its traditional graphics business. It holds nearly two-thirds of the world market for dry-letting, so growth is limited although the graphics side is a healthy cash generator.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Optimism over hostages boosts dollar

By Our Financial Staff

The dollar surged ahead during most of yesterday, buoyed by hope that the hostages would be released and fears that interest rates would stay high. But in late trading the market suddenly realized

that Iran might sell some of the dollars it will receive and the American currency started to lose ground.

Sterling rose with the dollar and ended the day with an effective exchange rate up 0.3 percentage points and 80 per cent of its 1971 level, the

highest since early November. It closed at \$2.3930, down by 85 points.

The dollar's index as calculated by the Bank of England rose by 0.5 percentage points to 87.3 per cent of its 1971 level.

Chairman admits Gibbons acquisition 'went wrong' Stamp of success eludes Letraset

Letraset, one of the fastest-growing companies of the last decade, yesterday disclosed a sharp drop in half-year profits and admitted that it had made a serious mistake with its acquisition of Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealer, bought for £19m in 1979.

Stanley Gibbons is now making losses and the cost of recovery is put at £3m to £4m. In a remarkable acknowledgment of past mistakes, Mr William Fieldhouse, the chairman, said that the group had got its timing and price wrong when it bought Gibbons.

"We significantly overpaid for what we got," he said. He referred to indiscriminate expansion and "imprudent investment decisions" at Gibbons but said that Letraset

had not acted earlier because of its lack of knowledge of the business.

He would not comment on whether Gibbons' purchase in 1979 of the American Marc Haas stamp collection for \$10m (£4.16m)—only a third of which has since been sold—counted among past mistakes.

A turnaround from profits of £1.4m to losses of £246,000 before interest at Gibbons was the main reason for Letraset's drop in profits from £6.3m before tax to £3.5m. This was after a rise in interest payments by a quarter to £955,000, much of which is thought to relate to Gibbons.

Fortunately, the graphics business, which is mainly dry-transfer lettering on which the group made its name, did well

AGUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-1 The Advantages

This is the first of a series which today and over the next seven Saturdays will explain how Investment Trusts work, and the opportunities they offer the private investor.

What is an Investment Trust?

Investment Trusts, through the efficient management of a portfolio of assets, set out to maximise income and/or capital growth for the benefit of their shareholders. Typically, the assets comprise shares in other listed companies on a worldwide basis.

The managers of the portfolio have the freedom to switch investments between companies and countries as opportunities arise.

An Investment Trust is a limited liability company whose shares are bought and sold through The Stock Exchange in exactly the same way that shares are traded in other public companies. The Investment Trust sector is one of the largest on The Stock Exchange. Combined, some 200 or so Investment Trusts manage assets in excess of £8,000 million.

Can Investment Trusts invest in other types of assets?

Yes, in addition to shares in listed companies, many Investment Trust portfolios also contain a wide variety of other assets. These might include shares in unlisted companies, backing for a new industrial project or research finance. Indeed, the Investment Trust sector has been responsible for financing a substantial part of North Sea oil and gas exploration, as well as providing the backing for the development of high technology products.

Couldn't an individual build up this type of portfolio?

An Investment Trust holds a wide spread of investments which the individual, acting on his own, would find difficult to achieve. When the first Investment Trust was formed over

100 years ago, it had as its stated objective "to provide the investor of moderate means the same advantage as the large capitalist in diminishing risk... by spreading investment over a number of stocks". Subsequent events have demonstrated that the industry has been highly successful in fulfilling this aim.

While the industry has evolved and become more sophisticated, that same objective holds true to this day. In other words, an Investment Trust allows the private investor to participate in exciting investment opportunities without being exposed to the risk involved in going into a single venture on his own account.

In buying shares in Investment Trusts, the shareholder is also buying professional management skill in international investment. These managers monitor individual companies and sectors within different economies, set against a world background, and without losing sight of the constantly fluctuating relationship between international currencies.

It is highly unlikely that an individual would be in a position to gather or, more importantly, interpret that information. Effective international investment management is a full time job for professionals—and that is what an Investment Trust offers.

What other advantages are there?

Tax. Investment Trusts, thanks to recently introduced legislation, are also thoroughly tax efficient. They are now exempt from tax on capital gains realised on their portfolio of investments. This allows the investor to defer any liability to tax on capital gains until he sells his shares.

Gearing ability: Investment Trusts—unlike some other popular investment forms—can "gear". That is to say, they can borrow money to invest in assets, any appreciation of which benefits the Ordinary shareholders. This is explained in more detail in Guide Number 5.

Next Saturday: An Investment Trust is not a Unit Trust.

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which make up 'A Guide to Investment Trusts' are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House, Sixth Floor, 16 Finbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Or telephone 01-588 5347.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

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PRICE CHANGES

Rises

EP	12p to 40p
Charter	20p to 18p
Gas & Oil	15p to 17p
Haden	15p to 17p
Harrison	37p to 78p

Falls

Ass Paper	3p to 25p
Cass Eng	3p to 35p
De La Rue	20p to 70p
Electro	45p to 61p
Elburg	10p to 21p

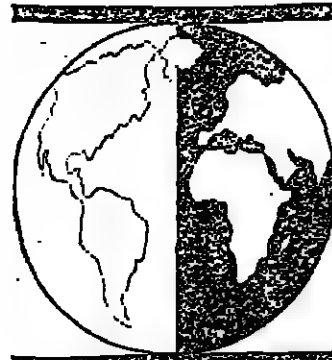
THE POUND

Bank	12.97
Bank	12.42
Bank	12.42
Bank	12.42

Norway	135.00
South Africa	2.10
Spain	195.50
Sweden	11.10
Switzerland	4.35
USA	2.45
Yugoslavia	84.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES



Italian move in Libyan gas dispute

Signor Enrico Manca, the Italian Minister of Foreign Trade, is expected to take up the question of Libya's stoppage of liquefied natural gas deliveries to Italy during his two-day visit to Tripoli starting on Sunday. The visit was arranged some time ago to discuss the overall development of trade.

Libya has suspended supplies since the beginning of the year because negotiations on new price and delivery arrangements have halted.

Under an agreement concluded in 1965 with Exxon, the Italian state corporation ENI took up to 3,000 million cubic metres a year—in practice, deliveries were always less—from the American company's Mars el Brega plant, but the Libyans insist that the new agreement be made direct with their oil corporation.

Anti-trust case starts

Anti-trust proceedings have begun in Washington against American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) which, the Government claims, has a monopoly in the telephone sector for 35 years, and has prevented rivals getting into the long-distance phone business. The Federal authorities are calling for ATT to be broken up.

\$10m cellulose plant

Snia Viscoia will build a cellulose plant in Mexico by mid-1982, a spokesman for the Italian company announced in Milan. The plant, valued at \$10m (about £4m), will have a yearly production of 10,500 metric tons of cellulose—50 per cent for the domestic market and the balance for export.

China joint venture

Daiel Inc, Japan's largest supermarket operator, said in Tokyo that it has signed a contract with the Chinese authorities in China to establish a joint venture company in Osaka, which will import Chinese foods and carpets. The new company has a capital of 100m yen (about £205,340).

Recovery prediction

M Victor Dial, the chairman of Ford-France, said in Paris he expects the West European car market to recover in 1981, with production rising to an annual rate of 9.5 million vehicles in the first quarter, from 9.4 million in the last quarter of 1980.

Canada signs pact

Canada has signed the \$750m (about £315m) international "common fund" accord on raw materials, and pledged \$2.4m. The agreement has now been signed by 12 countries, but 50 have to ratify it before it comes into effect. The fund proposes to set up buffer stocks so as to smooth out price fluctuations.

US bank profits

Several United States holding banks have announced sharp profit rises for last year, the biggest jump so far being Bankers' Trust with 58 per cent. J. P. Morgan announced 27.5 per cent, Chemical Bank 24 per cent and Marine Midland 36 per cent.

Olympic seeks loan

Olympic Airways is seeking a loan from Greek and international banks to tide over the forecast 1981 deficit of about \$60m (£25m). Last year's loss was about \$40m, this being attributed by the management chiefly to pay rises and selling tickets too cheaply.

Greek fleet expands

The Greek merchant fleet expanded to 3,930 vessels aggregating 41.16 million gross registered tons in the first 11 months of 1980 from 3,941 vessels of total 38.53 million GRT in the same 1979 period, the Merchant Marine Ministry reports in Athens.

UK TRADE

	£m	Exports	Imports	Trade
1979	125.9	40,688	44,093	-3,405
1980	125.9	41,287	44,258	-2,971
1980 Q1	33.3	11,535	12,588	-1,053
Q2	33.3	11,853	12,095	-242
Q3	33.3	11,529	11,053	476
Q4	33.3	11,732	10,572	1,160
1980 July	33.3	2,943	3,895	-952
Aug	33.3	3,395	3,462	-67
Oct	33.3	3,363	3,384	-21
Nov	33.3	3,269	3,505	-236
Dec	33.3	3,269	3,505	-236

Unit volume index numbers for visible trade, seasonally adjusted and the terms of trade index, non-seasonally adjusted, issued yesterday by the Department of Trade.

	(1975=100)	Volume	Value	Terms of trade
1979	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
1980	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
1980 Q1	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Q2	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Q3	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Q4	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
1980 July	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Aug	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Oct	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Nov	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0
Dec	125.9	125.9	125.9	100.0

Ford lays off 4,000 at Halewood in paint shop dispute

Ford yesterday laid off until Tuesday 4,000 hourly paid men in the body and assembly plants at its Halewood factory on Merseyside.

This action was in line with the company's tough new discipline procedure agreed before Christmas. It comes after a dispute on Wednesday in the dealer deck department of the paint shop when eight men refused what the company described as "a minor additional task."

It is the first industrial trouble at Halewood since work resumed after the fortnight's Christmas break, and could cost production of about 2,500 new Escort cars, worth £10m.

The eight were supported by 30 colleagues who were then suspended. The trouble spread to internal drivers in the traffic department who took action in sympathy.

A management spokesman at the plant said it had become necessary to lay off the body and assembly shift workers, but added that last night's four-hour shift in the two plants would be working normally.

The new disciplinary procedure at Halewood specifies that if a dispute arises in any part of the plant, the workers concerned should be sent home for two full shifts.

On Monday a crucial pay vote will take place when 10,000 workers from the body and assembly plants—nearly half of whom will have been laid off—meet to decide whether to accept the company's 9.5 per cent pay offer.

This morning 2,000 men from the factory's gear box plant will also vote on the offer, but they are not affected by yesterday's dispute.

Ford's management has repeatedly given warning that the new Escort will be the last car to be launched at Halewood if the number of disputes is not reduced. There have been more than 100 disputes since the car went into production last summer.

The company was not prepared to comment on how it thought the lay-off would affect the pay vote. But it is understood they think the action will probably have little effect on it.

Some people inside the company feel that it may even swing Monday's vote in favour of the offer because the men will be worried about the security of their jobs.

Some parts of the body and assembly plants were still working yesterday.

Hostage crisis delays Chrysler aid talks

Washington, Jan. 16.—A meeting of the Chrysler Loan Board this afternoon to approve the company's request for \$400m (£166.7m) rescue funds was postponed until Monday because the Japanese had not completed all of the documents required before approval.

Mr William Miller, the Treasury Secretary who also heads the Loan Board, said Chrysler had assured him that the documents would be completed within a few hours. But he added that because he had to return to the State Department to join in talks on the Iranian hostage situation, the board meeting would have to be postponed.

Chrysler's plan appeared to be "falling into place", Mr Miller said.

He knew of no variance on their part from the conditions they have set down. But he added: "I have to give priority to the hostages."

A condition of the new loan is that the company must agree to commit itself to take all possible steps to obtain an infusion of new capital through a merger or other means.

Chrysler is required to report periodically to the board on the progress of efforts to find a merger partner.

There have been talks with Mitsubishi Motors and Peugeot but Chrysler's debt is now so high that they are reluctant to make firm offers.

One of the best possibilities for a joint venture is to produce a light truck with one of the Japanese manufacturers at Chrysler's plant in St. Louis, which was closed last July. The plant has modern equipment.

Mr Yoshihito Sone the president of Mitsubishi Motors described the company's relations with Chrysler as "absurd" and said the deal would have to be revised before the Japanese company would even consider helping Chrysler rebuild.

He said that he had not yet received any formal approach from Chrysler officials to discuss cooperation in rebuilding the American company which owns 15 per cent of Mitsubishi.

The company also said that it would be suspending production and shipment of cars to Chrysler and sending its surplus work force to southern Chrysler plants in the Mitsubishi group in view of Chrysler's trouble—Agencies.

Mr William Miller: company's survival depends on merger.

Canada aid, Mr Herbert Gray, Canada's industry minister, said the Federal Government \$200m aid plan to Chrysler Canada Ltd remained unchanged. Chrysler plans to cut its \$1,000m Canadian investment programme by \$400m.

Germans deny Turkey's claims of aid agreement

Bonn, Jan. 16.—West Germany today dismissed a Turkish claim that Bonn had agreed to organize a new Western financial aid package for the country.

Official sources said no such decision had been taken and described the assertion yesterday by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, during a visit to Germany as exaggerated.

After talks yesterday with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, Mr Ozal told reporters it was decided West Germany should head aid efforts by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1981.

Mr Ozal's comments may have irritated the Bonn government, which initially gave a cautious welcome to last September's military coup in Turkey but has since displayed anxiety over political developments there.

Mr Ozal's visit coincided with the publication of a report by a West German-led international trade union delegation saying that countless Turkish trade unionists had been arrested since the military takeover and were still being held—Reuters.

OECD steel output down 8.4 pc

Paris, Jan. 16.—Steel production in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) area declined by 8.4 per cent last year to 207.2 million tons—the lowest since 1970—from 433.5 million tons in 1979, according to figures released yesterday.

Mr Hans Collander of Sweden, the new chairman of the OECD steel committee, told reporters that the steel situation remained "very serious" and that there were no indications of an improvement coming in the next six months.

Britain experienced the sharpest fall in 1980, of 47.9 per cent to 11.2 million tons. The United States was second with a decline of 18.3 per cent to 100.7 million tons.

Only Italy and Spain recorded increased production. Italy's output rose by 9.1 per cent to 26.5 million tons and that of Spain by 4.1 per cent to 12.7 million tons.

Mr Robert Hormatz, United States deputy trade representative and outgoing chairman of the committee, said that although American steel production had increased to about 27 million tons in the 1980 fourth quarter, from 19.5 million three months earlier, production was well below the fourth quarters of 1979 and 1978—Agencies.

RETAIL PRICES

	(1974=100)	(1) All items	(2) All items except seasonal goods	(3) Annual rate of increase
Dec 1979	239.4	240.5	240.2	20.2
1980	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Jan	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Feb	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Mar	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Apr	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
May	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Jun	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Jul	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Aug	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Sep	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Oct	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Nov	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8
Dec	240.5	240.5	240.2	15.8

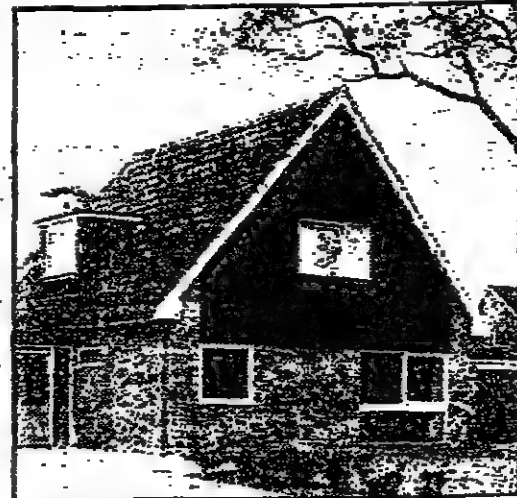
INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

	(1974=100)	Total	Manufacturing	Non-manufacturing
1979	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1980	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1980 Q1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Q4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1980 July	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aug	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Oct	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nov	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dec	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Housing: taxation

Relief that is always welcome



Buying a house on a mortgage is one field of taxation that even the most innumerate understands. If you raise a loan to buy or improve your home you will get tax relief on the interest. It is as simple as that—or is it?

There are in fact some stringent rules which could trip up the unwary. For a start, the property you are buying must be either in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

If you are deflected from your original aim of borrowing to buy or improve a property and spend the loan in some other way, frivolous or not, which would not qualify under the rules, then the Inland Revenue will not allow the interest relief.

By the way, it is up to you to tell the Revenue of any change in plans. In practice, the tax man rarely queries the purpose of building society loans, but will sometimes ask questions about bank loans which you might consider qualify.

If you leave the money on deposit, say, with a bank or building society and then use the funds for the qualifying purposes within reasonable length of time—six to twelve months—the interest should not be disallowed. A loan will also qualify if it is raised in order to replace other borrowed money which themselves were taken out for a qualifying purpose.

Central heating, double glazing, putting in a new bathroom, even the construction of a

a swimming pool or landscaping a garden, all qualify as home improvements. But loans for repairs and renewals which only maintain and do not "improve" the property do not count. So a loan for example, that is raised in order to repair the roof would not normally qualify for tax relief.

Although you will not get a building society mortgage against a houseboat or residential caravan, a loan from a bank or any other source for such a house would qualify. But you will not be able to connect a qualifying loan by selling your unimproved house to your wife (for which she would require a loan); transactions between

spouses do not count in this context.

Two other features of the loan are important. The lender has to be a United Kingdom resident and the loan must be for a fixed period, which rules out an overdraft.

On March 26, 1974, the notorious £25,000 ceiling for qualifying loans was introduced. Interest relief can be obtained only if the loan, with a maximum of £25,000, is for the purchase or improvement of property which is your sole or main residence, or for letting commercially.

It is now increasingly common for mortgages to exceed £25,000 and in these circumstances the interest on the total loan is apportioned. For example, if you borrow £50,000 with the interest on half the loan at, say, 12 per cent and the remainder at 14 per cent, then the average rate should be taken and relieved to the extent of the qualifying part, in this case £25,000 at 13 per cent.

When changing a main residence, the Inland Revenue allows up to 12 months of interest to be claimed on both the two properties. In certain cases the taxman may extend the period of double relief if, for example, a person buys a property and is unable to sell the original home.

Temporary absences from the home of less than a year are normally disregarded by the Revenue and so are absences of up to four years if you are required to move because of employment.

Interest is also allowed on loans which are used in order to buy another home for a separated or divorced spouse or for a dependent relative, but married couples living together may have only one main residence between them.

A dependent relative must be related to either the owner of the property or their spouse and be "incapacitated by old age or infirmity", but a widow or divorced or separated mother or mother-in-law is automatically treated as a dependent relative.

Unfortunately, such purchases for dependent relatives all count towards the overall £25,000 mortgage interest ceiling. So, if, for example, you already have a mortgage of £15,000, only £10,000 of any additional mortgage would be allowable.

From April 6, 1977, anyone living in job-related accommodation—lighthouse keepers, wardens of Oxford colleges, hutlers, Prime Ministers, farm labourers and even Chancellors of the Exchequer—and buying a house which will ultimately become their main residence is able to get tax relief on the loan.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Housing: prices

Pointers for the year ahead

Nothing changed in December. House prices were static, with The Times/Halifax index reporting a mere 0.1 per cent gain on the month to 166.2. This confirms that the underlying trend over the past four months has been quite flat.

Over the year as a whole the index of seasonally adjusted second-hand houses rose by only 10 per cent in marked

contrast to the end of year outcome for the previous two years.

But since the beginning of last year, house prices have been on the downward plunge of the roller-coaster. After peaking with a rise of 25.5 per cent (over twelve months) in January, the rate of increase in the index dwindled progressively, apart from modest increases in June and September,

which can be regarded as monthly hiccup.

The downward trend in the index, quarter by quarter, is very noticeable. In the first three months of the year the index rose by 4.8 per cent; in the second three months of 1980 it added 3.7 per cent; from July to September the rise was down to 1.1 per cent; and by the final quarter it had virtually petered away at 0.2 per cent.

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average % price (£)	change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
1978 June	109.3	16,133	18.9	9.3	3.8
September	118.2	17,458	22.0	12.7	8.2
December	121.1	17,866	21.2	10.7	2.4
1979 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,783	24.6	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	23.6	10.4	7.8
April	136.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.0
May	138.2	20,094	30.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	26.1	19.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	26.2	16.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	28.0	14.1	6.5
September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5	5.8
October	149.5	22,085	27.4	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,339	28.3	11.2	4.3
December	151.0	22,291	24.8	9.8	3.8
1980 January	154.2	22,754	25.5	8.2	3.1
February	158.2	23,052	22.7	7.6	3.2
March	158.2	23,352	21.3	8.7	4.8
April	158.6	23,408	20.4	6.1	2.9
May	161.7	23,666	19.4	6.8	3.5
June	164.0	24,205	19.0	8.8	3.7
July	163.7	24,165	14.9	6.2	3.2
August	164.0	24,204	13.0	5.0	1.4
September	168.8	24,773	13.9	4.8	1.1
October	168.4	24,558	11.3	4.9	1.6
November	168.0	24,499	9.7	2.7	1.2
December	166.2	24,523	10.0	1.3	0.2

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	December	November	% change over 3 months
North	18,763	18,720	-0.2
York and Humberside	18,763	18,720	-0.2
North-west	20,094	19,912	-0.9
East Midlands	19,685	19,710	0.1
West Midlands	22,385	22,582	0.9
East Anglia	23,458	23,566	0.5
Wales	20,608	20,604	-0.02
South-west	26,246	26,403	0.6
South-east	26,172	26,172	0.0
Greater London	32,651	33,130	1.5
Northern Ireland	19,097	18,829	-1.4
Scotland	21,907	22,073	0.8

Investor's week

Market slithers drearily downwards

Little Bo-peep lost her sheep and did not know where to find them. Blow-Bo-peep City men have lost their bearings and do not even know where to look for them. Company profits and dividends disappear, to reappear no one knows when. The Government's grip on its own spending is slipping, and hence on interest rates, seems to have all but gone.

Once fashionable oil and electrical shares now go around in tatters leaving the stock market leaderless. The old wheel of business fortune, which should be moving away from financial stocks to manufacturers as business picks up, has stopped turning, for how long nobody knows.

The FT index slithered from 461.2 to 451.9 this week and the best that could be said was that by its dismal, dithering close, professional sellers of shares seemed temporarily to have left the scene.

One thing is certain. The new year has got off on the wrong foot. Last year interest rates seemed to be pointing down (good for shares), while company profits were battered (bad for them). Now both profits and interest rates seem to be going the wrong way, a combination always too powerful for shares to withstand.

As gilt-edged weaken, the

yield gap between what is offered by shares and government stocks is actually widening. Shares offer only unreliable dividends; gilt-edged which only two months ago yielded 12.7 per cent now offer 14 per cent or more.

This week we lost confidence in the Chancellor or, more precisely, in his Budget on March 10. The more he tries to cheer us up, the more miserable we become. There was, he told the House of Commons, already the start of a revival in business confidence. The fall in output, he averred, was coming to an end. The Government, he insisted, must stick to its monetarist course.

The City took no notice. All it wanted was to linger over the admission of Mr Nigel

Lawson, the Financial Secretary, that public sector borrowing in this financial year would be even bigger than last November's revised and swollen forecast of £11,500m. The latest figures seemed to indicate that money supply is still growing at around 22 per cent a year.

Bank lending continues to boom. The City distrusts it all and now wants money to lead the Government to yield more. In equities, the market is the glibble. Will Imperial Chemical Industries cut its dividend? asked some. Will Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds break even this year? cried others.

The rest tried to talk Tube Investments into closing-factor. Ives and Glaxo into the same pickle as Fisons.

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's	Year's	Company	Change	Comment
128p	88p	Durton Grp	4p to 97p	Annual meeting cheer
46p	19p	Inveresk	10p to 35p	Bld approach
124p	84p	Magnet & S	10p to 118p	Interim figs
375p	142p	Strig Line	135p to 375p	Hunting Gibson bid
69p	35p	UDT	12p to 50p	Lloyds & S bid appch
48p	24p	Assoc Paper	3p to 25p	Yr's pft and div cut
126p	50p	Dixons Photo	3p to 131p	Yr's pft down
198p	102p	ICI	80p to 185p	Financial problems
380p	280p	Thorn EM	24p to 280p	FW down, outside pbot
250p	130p	Wigfall (H)	5p to 130p	No

Double or quits

Gleeson—foundation of a good portfolio?

November 1, 1980. Forgotten it? Good. That was the day I last wrote "Double or Quits", a day when I was wise in general and foolish in particular. I confess that stretching the memory that far is like looking across a chasm.

Consider: the FT Index was 486.5 and wisely I remarked on "an undercurrent of uneasiness which could suddenly well up and swamp the best of us". So suddenly on Saturday I may sell—sell, sell, sell.

But I did not sell and we did not sell. So one new year's resolution is to take my phenomena more seriously.

Perhaps, I hear you saying, I should take my gains more seriously. Luckily, I cashed handsome profits on a host of shares in September, but we are lumbered with Westland, taken in at 47p on December 1, 1979, and now 12p; MK Electric, in a 17p on July 5 last, now 17p; Fidelity Radio bought at 36p on September 6 and now 34p; Myson also acquired at 50p on September 6 and reeling at 25p; Courtaulds, bought on November 1 at 64p and, wait for it, now 58p; and Reynolds Diversified also bought on November 1 at 42p and now 31p.

So we missed good profits on MK and Myson, missed time

but hardly any money on Reynolds, ditto Fidelity and, we hope, paid for wretched Courtaulds and its dividend with one of last year's outstanding stocks, Westland.

I propose to treat this bedraggled collection in more detail soon; for the moment I suggest keeping them all, save Courtaulds. On November 1, I called it worst buy among a myriad investors (how true) and now it is, they say, the best buy, the cheapest stock in the market.

It may be, but I also suspect that recovery at Courtaulds will be painfully slow at best. Perhaps it is the most boring share in the market. Out it goes.

So it is with a sense of guilt but a sigh of relief that I turn to our first gamble of 1981. It is not that I expect the stock market suddenly to take wings. I do not. But a little discreet bargain hunting has already begun and one company attracting not a few interesting buyers is M. J. Gleeson (Contractors).

To the casual observer there is no cause for fuss. It is a rock steady, safe-as-houses construction group with a steady, not to say stagnant, record to match. The shares at 61p yield a sober looking 6.4 per cent and sell at 12.5 times earnings.

But wait: this 61p is the 1980-81 high; even so, it represents a huge discount on assets of 181p. This is fair enough for a construction group coping with public spending cuts, but is it fair, I ask rhetorically, for a construction group turning into a property company? Gleeson is fast accumulating rental income from residential, industrial and commercial developments which it is keeping.

"In due course", said Mr John Gleeson, chairman, in his recent annual statement, "we will seek the requisite permission from the Department of Trade for the company to change its name to Gleeson Group." For the Gleesons are keen to be known as men of property.

In the year to last June, Gleeson got about 30 per cent of its total profits of £385,000 from rent. The year before it was only 15 per cent. This year it could be up to 50 per cent of total profits of, say, £900,000.

It will obviously take time to put Gleeson shares on a property style yield of 3 per cent, but even a modest return would do them a power of good. Here's hoping, anyway.

PW

Sticklepath's spy mystery

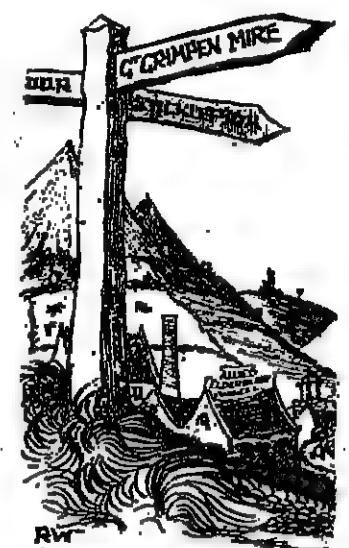
Sticklepath was shaken to its foundations the other day when, in the dead of winter, a tourist was observed in the Post Office. All through the summer, of course, the grockles sit on the roof of the Post Office, but this time the tourist was not a grockle. He was a man in a dark suit, a white shirt and a dark tie, who was seen to enter the Post Office and to emerge with a small package in his hand.

He left the Post Office, and making his way through the little knot of astonished villagers, proceeded to the Grog-Bevington Arms where he asked for "Jefferson's gross of elderly wine". He then inquired of the whereabouts of "Lieutenant-Coroner Grog-Bevington", claiming airily in passing to be the son of his ex-batman Ho-Far in the 4th Heavy Hongkong Hussars.

Being directed to Elderberry Towers, he found the colonel characteristically plattered, unconscious but was given a shed to sleep in with the laborers by Uriah Stoa, the keeper.

The next day he was seen on Dartmoor examining the landscape through powerful binoculars. Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrabble immediately jumped to the conclusion that he was trying to engineer the escape of a Chinese heroin smuggler who happened to be serving a 20-year sentence under his care. Shades of Sherlock Holmes and all that were invoked.

Suspensions deepened when the colonel, on awakening two



RM

days later for luncheon and being informed of the excitement, announced that batman Ho-Far and all his family had been sunk in a junk in 1945. Then suddenly the mysterious stranger disappeared. Had he fallen into the Great Grimpen Mire? Or been consumed by the ogles, the Dachshund of the Baskervilles which had recently taken to roaming over the moor clad in the special phosphorescent dog sweater knitted for her by Lady Baskerville in lures and orange dayglo wool? A week later all was revealed. He had been none other than an industrial spy in the employ of Sir Too-Non-U, the famous Hongkong businessman and chairman of the immensely powerful and inscrutable multinational Fined Lace Shipping and So-on. The object of his interest had been the Great

Tax liability on sale of mother's home

Ten years ago my mother transferred her flat into my name. When she dies, or is for any other reason unable to use it, I shall wish to sell it as I have my own home. What will be my tax liability, and what would the position have been if the flat had remained in my mother's name? (I am the sole beneficiary in her will.) (RNR, London, NW3.)

I assume that you are now the legal owner of the property and that your mother lives there rent free. Any gain on the eventual disposal of the property will probably be exempt from Capital Gains Tax under the Dependent Relative Exemption. If you retain the property after your mother ceases to live there, then part of the gain may be chargeable, the proportion being ascertained on a time basis. The gain will be the surplus arising on a disposal over the market value when you acquired the flat from your mother. I recommend that you study the free Inland Revenue publication capital gains tax 8 and especially paragraph 73.

If your mother had retained

ownership of her flat, it would form part of her estate on her death. No capital gains tax liability would arise on the market value at that time. However, a liability to Capital Gains Tax could then arise depending on the size of your mother's estate and the lifetime gifts and capital transfer made by her since March 26, 1974.

I am a widow in the late sixties. At the time of my husband's death I/we owned a family house and a country cottage; to which we intended to retire. Both houses were registered in both our names. The cottage was unsuitable for me to live

in alone, so I sold the family house and bought another smaller house. I have four children and would like to leave as much as possible to them. My total estate including the house I live in, but the cottage, is probably not worth more than £50,000.

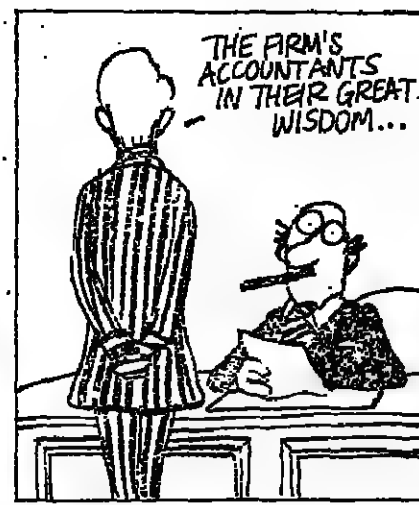
(i) Is there any way in which I can make over the country cottage to my four children, or give them joint ownership with me and avoid them having to pay capital transfer tax?

(ii) I/we have owned the cottage for six years, and before my husband died three years ago, we had spent at least £2,000 on renovating it and I have spent more since. We paid £8,000 for it. If I sold the cottage, would I have to pay capital gains tax? (JRA, Oxford.)

It is a pity that you are now outside the period allowed for a deed of family arrangement. Basically one is permitted for capital transfer tax and capital gains tax purposes to re-write the provisions of a will within two years of the death, and these provisions could have applied in relation to your husband's estate.

It is possible for you to give away £2,000 per annum without attracting capital transfer tax and you can carry forward the benefit of this allowance for one year. In addition gifts of £250 may be made to different beneficiaries. So, assuming that you have not used your £2,000 exemption for this year or last year, you can give away a total of £5,000 to your four children without incurring any capital transfer tax consequences (2 x £2,000 plus 4 x £250). The capital transfer tax year ends on April 5 and in 1981/82 you can give away a further £5,000 if you so desire (£2,000 allowance plus 4 x £250). You might consider making use of the annual

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Unit trusts

Is this the way ahead for fund managers?

Good as unit trust sales were last year, they were not good enough. It may seem churlish to describe record sales of £531m—a substantial improvement on the £412m achieved in 1979—as a classic case of "could do better", but few in the industry would disagree.

The money coming in has not kept pace with the industry's overall growth; on the other hand, repurchases—the sales of units back to the managers—have kept abreast of funds under management. And because unitholders die, and linked policies mature, the level of repurchases, a record £424m last year, is not likely to decrease.

The accompanying table shows just how far unit trust sales have gone. As a percentage of funds under management, they have slipped from 22.2 per cent in 1968—the year of the industry's best ever net sales—to only 10.7 per cent in 1980.

Repurchases, however, have not altered greatly as a percentage of funds under management, rising from 4.8 per cent twelve years ago to 8.5 per cent last year.

Part of the problem has certainly been the intervention of other savings institutions, which have taken an increasing share of personal investments. High interest rates, for example, have favoured building societies—in the public eye at least—and the insurance industry, particularly for unit-linked endowment policies. In terms of both conventional investment funds and income bonds.

The industry, for its part, has been slow off the mark in making the virtues of its products as well known as some of its drawbacks. Attention, for



Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association.

example, has been focused for too long on performance statistics at the expense of the much more favourable tables showing increase in income, which demonstrate just how well unit trusts have done vis-à-vis some of their more conspicuously income-oriented rivals.

Having finally won the freedom to create and market unit trusts specializing in gilt-edged securities, the industry has not yet found them the bonanza they originally promised to be. Gilt funds began to proliferate from August onwards and by the end of the year there were 16 of them in the market with a total value of £37m, a not very encouraging average of just over £2m per fund.

Given that it has taken the unit trust industry getting on for 50 years to educate the public about the merits (and drawbacks) and opportunities of investing in equities, Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of

the Unit Trust Association, is not unduly perturbed about this slow start to gilt fund sales. It could all change if the gilt market picks up this year as interest rates begin to fall more dramatically.

This, of course, was the great expectation of 1980; and it may, indeed, be to the industry's advantage that gilts remained fairly disappointing. When the upturn eventually comes, the industry with a wide choice of gilt funds and greater marketing expertise in this area, should be better poised to increase sales.

On a more general note, the industry must also benefit this year from the relative swing in the balance of advantage in its favour away from investment bonds after the Budget changes in capital gains tax and income tax rates. Higher rate taxpayers no longer have the same incentive to shelter in a unit-linked assurance bond, while unit trusts are totally free of capital gains tax to investors with gains below £3,000.

There are other developments in the pipeline, too. Notably, the possibility that the industry may, if its Budget hopes come true, be able to offer cash or deposit funds to unitholders. Whether these funds will prove the runaway marketing success that they have been for the mutual funds industry in the United States is another matter, but they will certainly be a useful adjunct for unit trust management groups.

Cash or deposit funds are exactly what their name suggests: they are unit trusts holding money market instruments—deposits, certificates of deposit, Treasury bills, local authority loans, acceptance notes and bills of exchange to name but some—and getting the advantage of premium wholesale money rates generally not available to the private investor.

There are difficulties—not least because unit trusts, by law, are supposed to invest only in securities—a term which does not encompass

deposits and so on. The fact that unit trusts have from time to time to go liquid, partially at least, clearly makes a nonsense of this particular regulation. But the Department of Trade's tolerance towards short-term cash investments, has yet to be extended to a full-bodied investment programme in money.

Another drawback which, in Mr Messer's opinion, can only be solved by the abolition of the unit trust instrument duty, is the two-tier price structure of unit trusts. A separate bid and offer price for money units is unlikely to prove endearing to prospective unitholders.

The managers could probably manage to waive all the other charges, and elements associated with the traditional 7-8 per cent spread between the bid or buying price from unitholders and offer or selling price to unitholders, but the 4 per cent instrument duty is an immovable object which will necessitate a price spread.

If the Inland Revenue (and its Treasury overlords) do remove this barrier, then the way ahead for cash funds will be clear, despite the several technical problems which are involved. But the unit trust industry would be made immeasurably happier if, having gone so far, the Revenue unblinkingly allowed the industry to pay interest gross to unitholders.

Then, the industry really would be able to compete effectively with banks and building society deposits, as well as using cash funds as a transit camp for unitholders switching out of one equity fund but uncertain which next to back.

MS

Tyndall's Money Fund

The case for cash unit trusts (see above) was reinforced this week by Tyndall's launch of a Money Fund for private investors, and the Demand Fund, geared to professional money managers, offering investors the chance to obtain the higher rates in the money markets.

The Money Fund pays interest—2 points more than bank deposits is sought—gross and offers cheque book facilities, too. The managers hope that Tyndall unitholders will use the service when switching funds.



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STAY ON TOP RATES
If you choose a Bond of less than 5 years and then decide to leave your money invested, your extra interest will increase each year up to a maximum in the 5th and subsequent years. So you have a long term option from a short term investment.

WITHDRAWAL OPTION
At the end of the initial term selected you can withdraw all your investment. Or you can leave it to earn up to its highest interest at only 3 months' notice of repayment by the investor or the society.

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Term	Interest Rate	Net*
5 yrs	16.07%	11.25%
4 yrs	15.36%	10.75%
3 yrs	14.64%	10.25%
2 yrs	14.29%	10.00%
1 yr	13.93%	9.75%

*Interest above the prevailing Ordinary Share Account rate which may vary from time to time. Interest is payable quarterly.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Sonic Sound for market via placing

By Our Financial Staff

In the first new issue of the year, London-based hi-fi and video retailer Sonic Sound Video Holdings is applying for a full Stock Exchange quotation.

Stockbrokers, Earnshaw Haes are placing 2.25m ordinary shares at 80p each, which gives the company a £4.5m market capitalization. Dealings are expected to start on Friday, January 23.

Sonic Sound, formed in 1976, sells hi-fi, radio and electronic equipment from several shops in London's Tottenham Court Road. It also licenses space in its shops to retailers selling video equipment, etc. Last year, pretax profits were £393,000 on turnover of £2.6m and this year's profits are expected to be at least £800,000. On this basis, a total dividend of 6.4p gross will be paid, giving an 8 per cent yield at the placing price while the fully taxed p/e ratio is 12.5.

Stock markets

Buyers come in after inflation news

Equities maintained their technical rally yesterday helped by a continuing bear squeeze and several cheap buyers.

Sentiment was given a long awaited boost when the retail price index showed another slowdown in the rate of inflation during December from 15.3 per cent to 15.1 per cent. Buyers soon appeared and leading industrialists reacted favourably in the thin conditions with small gains across the board.

Overnight strength on Wall Street led one of the severest winters in the United States on record, brought a much needed boost to oils with double figure gains in most of the majors. However, business almost froze out in the late afternoon as the trade figures showed a fall in the surplus during December from £455m to £256m. Little selling, if any, was reported but it was enough to discourage further interest. As a result, the FT Index closed 3.4 higher at 457.19, having been up 4.6 at 2 pm, for a fall on the week of 9.3.

Glits made an uncertain start, worried by the Government's inability to control spending. This resulted in falls at around 1.5.

However, encouraged by the

slowdown in the rate of inflation they soon recovered, aided by rumours that the Treasury was about to announce some new 1-year Treasury Bills to help Finance government spending.

By the close, rises of around 1.5 were recorded in oils while at the shorter end gains of 1.5 were recorded. After a firm start, leading industrialists trailed off and at the close were showing a fairly mixed appearance. ICI ended before too long.

Speculation in several other old takeover favourites including Wagon Finance, up 5p at 28p, and First National Finance Corp 2 1/2p to 25 1/2p. R. P. Martin made up ground on a buy recommendation, climbing 8p to 145p. 34p rise in two days.

Tarmac hardened 1p to 240p following its proposals for a road and rail link with France, which in turn boosted Channel Tunnel 9 1/2p to 132p. Speculation in Vespene was good for a 14p rise in Vespene at 100p, a 25p rise in Burnett & Hollamshire at 50 1/2p and a 15p rise in Haden Carriers at 173p. Messer Ferrogas recovered 35p to 170p. Shares of Inverness naper leant 1 1/2p to 36p on news that they were engaged in talks which might lead to a bid, and

in properties New Cavendish, formerly Lido, were quoted up 5p to 330p.

Trading losses and cut dividends had Centex 2p off at 30p while Grant Bros 5p earlier at 95p bid. Lestrade held steady at 86p despite a profits contraction. EST drifted 5p to 114p following recent figures, along with S & W Bedford a similar amount to 178p.

Electricals had Electrocomp down 4 1/2p at 615p following a line of over 20,000 on offer while recent comment knocked Unitech again 15p to 315p.

Shares in shipping group Stag Line, for which Hunting Gibsons has bid 355p cash a share, closed another 5p up at 375p. Gossip is that Stag directors and families, who own a master stock of 40 per cent of the company, will stick out for a higher offer.

242p. But Murbhead's recent trading loss prompted speculation of a bid by Tyco Laboratories hoisting the shares 12p to 78p.

In the meantime, double-figure gains in oils had BP 1 1/2p higher at 40 1/2p, Shell 1 1/2p to 45 1/2p, Tritel 1 1/2p to 31p and Ultramar 7p to 49 1/2p. Among second liners comment lifted Premier Cons 5 1/2p to 99 1/2p with Berkeley Exp 13p stronger at 315p.

Equity turnover on January 13 was £100.29m (13,876 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Royal Dutch, Shell, UDT, GKN, ICI, Plessey, Unilever, BP, De Beers, BBA, BSR, and Incheape.

Traded options had a slightly better day with 563 contracts, up from 532 of those with the April 360 most active. 58p January 460s were also busy. Traditional options saw calls arranged in Premier at 91p, Berkeley Exploration at 2 1/2p and NFCC at 2 1/2p, up from 2 1/2p.

British Benzol plunges into loss

By Margareta Pagano

The loss of British Steel as its prime customer has strangled trading at British Benzol Carbonyl, which plunged to a loss and passed its 1980 dividend up the half-year to September.

The coke and smokeless fuel makers lost £1.28m in the period against pretax profits of £500,000. Last time, on sales which fell heavily to £5.9m, the loss was £1.05m. Last year the turnover was £1.2p.

The losses came as no surprise to Mr John Sutherland, the chairman, who warned shareholders after last year's results that the firm would have heavy losses. He repeated yesterday that the results are the direct consequence of the effect of the engineering and steel strikes on the year to March.

British Steel did not return as a customer to the group after the strikes, when stocks started to build up, but decided itself to become a net coke seller, and thus a competitor.

Last year problems in its South Wales plant had, operating losses, have been improved with agreed reduced manning levels. Sales have been affected by reduced demand from the foundry industry.

Fitch Lovell falls 27 pc to £4.3m at half time

By Rosemary Unsworth

Fitch Lovell, the food group which has made an agreed bid for Joseph Stacks has turned in a reduced profit for the first half, following problems in the poultry and chicken business which ensured a continued softening of prices and increased imports.

Pretax profits slipped by 27 per cent from £5.9m to £4.3m, while sales rose 9 per cent to £318.4m in the 26 weeks to October 25, 1980. The manufacturing side, which provided nearly half the trading profit, managed a small increase from £2.9m to £3.1m with an initial contribution from Bells Bacon, acquired in August 1980. But the canned fruit and vegetable operations performed badly as consumer demand plummeted.

The retail sector, which includes the Keymarkets chain, also boosted profits from £1.85m to £2.43m and four more stores will be opened during the second half, whose costs of £326,000 have already been absorbed, although the group's short-term borrowings have increased substantially. However, the plan to find the export market through sales and lease-backs.

The increased profit from the Bells Bacon division of Lovell & Stacks was slightly offset by low returns from the dairy pro-

ducts side although there was an improvement from the cash and carry subsidiaries.

Poultry had a difficult first half with overcapacity in the frozen chicken business which ensured a continued softening of prices and increased imports. This is unlikely to change before the end of the current year.

The fisheries side of the agricultural division has benefited from changes in Government policy on fish farming. Profits from the division amounted to £16,000 compared with £34,000 last time.

Insulation materials also suffered a setback as Government grants were not increased last year and contributed to a profits fall in that division of more than £600,000 to £375,000. The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.15p gross and Mr Michael Webster, chairman, said in the absence of unforeseen circumstances — the final will be the same as last year's 5.3p gross.

Joseph Stacks' half-time results, as released with Fitch Lovell's showed a profits decline from £335,000 to £294,000 with turnover rising by 5m to £28m. There is no interim dividend because of the after.

Plum Group says that contracts have been exchanged for sale to Ambridge Industrial Estates Limited £1.49m in cash of the 10.5m shares at 14p each, formerly owned by the Group's subsidiary R & A Kohnstamm Ltd. Assets: £1.49m. Franchise: £1.49m. Net asset value: £1.49m. Dividend: 0.13p (0.82p adjusted).

United Guarantee (Holdings): Turnover for year to September 20, 1980: £10.5m. Dividend: 0.13p (0.82p adjusted). Net asset value: £1.49m. Dividend: 0.13p (0.82p adjusted).

Deborah and Partners: Turnover for year to September 23, 1980: £10.5m. Dividend: 0.13p (0.82p adjusted). Net asset value: £1.49m. Dividend: 0.13p (0.82p adjusted).

Phoenix Mining reduces its losses: Over the year to September 30, turnover of Phoenix Mining and Finance rose from £1.58m to £1.66m and losses were cut from £16,000 to £6,000. There is no dividend.

The pretax losses were struck before debiting £124,000 of extraordinary items, against £100,000.

Since the year end, the acquisition of certain properties from Burrows (Builders) and the sale of a 50 per cent share in 5m ordinary shares in the company has taken place.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Moore & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 1 day deposit on basis of £10,000 and under 11% p/a, up to £50,000 12% p/a, over £50,000 12 1/2% p/a.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Div	Pay	Year's
Int of Fin			date		total
Atlantic Assets (I)	0.23(0.42)	0.17(0.82)	(—)	(—)	(—)
British Benzol (I)	1.22(0.56)	13.7(4.7)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Centros (I)	7.73(3.04)	12.12(1.94)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Centraway (I)	1.84(1.87)	19.1(1.6)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Dewhurst & Pte (F)	3.54(3.52)	0.03(0.14)	0.1(—)	6/4	0.15(0.92)
Granite Trust (F)	0.53(0.62)	4.14(3.42)	0.2(—)	6/3	3.7(3.2)
Lestrade (I)	32.8(23.5)	3.9(15.35)	1.05(1.09)	3/3	(—)
Phosag (I)	1.89(1.08)	0.006(0.025)	0.42(0.01)	(—)	(—)
Racuum Int (F)	1.9(1.75)	6.94(3.51)	4.3(—)	23/2	6.25(6.33)
UDT Guarantee (F)	10.8(6.01)	0.17(0.461)	0.26(—)	(—)	0.5(0.5)
Western Ed Mills (I)	1.81(1.3)	0.76(0.53)	1.7(—)	6/3	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown attributable to shareholders after tax credit of £154,300. Attributable profit: £1,000.

Commodities

COMMODITY prices were mostly steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Oil prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Grain prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Metals prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Softwood prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Hardwood prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Textile prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Food prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Chemical prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

Other commodities prices were steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

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Discount market

The large call on the Treasury, 11 1/2 per cent stock, 1980, was mainly responsible for the very tight credit conditions expected in the discount market yesterday.

Bank of England assistance on an extremely large scale was required to alleviate the shortage of day-to-day funds.

Secured rates held firm throughout, with houses being between 13 1/2 and 14 per cent for fresh funds.

Discount market was steady, with a few minor fluctuations.

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Foreign exchange report

Strong for most of the day, with a few minor fluctuations.

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31 Jan 1953

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RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price
Affiliated London Press 9-14 Cvr 1999 (†)		\$102
Ball & Spence 9-14 Cvr 1999 (†)		\$102
Chesler Water 9-14 Red Prof 1999 (†)		\$107
Danmon Oil Cdn 3-8		\$99 1/2
Kimberly Corp 1-6 Cvr (305)		\$107
East Anglican Water 9-14 Red Prof 1999 (†)		\$107
East Western Water 9-14 Red Prof 1999 (†)		\$107
Enbridge 1-6 Cvr (305)		\$107
Equipeur 1-6 Cvr (305)		\$107
Independent Inc 2-10 Cvr (1074)		\$107
Lon Merchant Ship 3-8 Cvr Jan 2000-05		\$107
New York Jan 2000-05		\$107
Phoenix Mining 3-8 Cvr (28)		\$107
Treasury 1-6 Cvr 1999-2000 (†)		\$107
Treasury 1-6 Cvr 2000-2001 (†)		\$107

FUTURE ISSUES		Latest Price
Johnson Matthey		\$102
Royal Bank (2000-05)		\$102
Warren Plantations (2000-05)		\$102

* Issue price in parentheses. † Ex dividend.	
† Issued by tender, at \$102 paid, a \$30 paid, a \$30 paid, a \$30 paid.	

[illegible]

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هكذا من الأصل

Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

Museums and minster, not forgetting a plethora of pubs

Yorkshire is far too large to treat as one unit. When the Vikings sailed up the Ouse and founded their colony in the ninth century, they divided it into three, calling each a "thrydding". Despite the local government reorganisation which tried to throw this historical division in the bin, Yorkshire still considers itself to be carved into three "thryddings" or ridings.

A visitor to Yorkshire should take the Viking example. Take the county slowly, a little at a time, and the full benefits of each rich area can be enjoyed. A good starting point is to stay in York, known to the ancient British as Eborac, to the Vikings as Jorvik and to the Romans as Eboracum.

The white walls which surround the city are based upon Roman foundations. What can be seen now is largely a fraud, a Victorian reconstruction and renovation of the medieval walls, with its gates or "bars" at the four points of the compass. It is possible to walk all the way round the city, behind the wall's battlements, a thing but rewarding way to see from a height the extent of the city.

Within the walls there are 20 churches from every period and many times that number of public houses—some say the greatest density of drinking premises in Britain. But the most important building of worship is the Minster, the largest English medieval cathedral, which, from the station, appears to sit like a sphinx upon the muddled roofs of the city.

It took from 1220 to 1470 to build and, thanks to a direct order from Sir Thomas Fairfax, it remains a one piece. The parliamentarians were forbidden to desecrate the glass and savings after their victory at Marston Moor.

It is one of the most awe-inspiring buildings in Britain. The west front is in the French style: it has a fine perpendicular tower; and the medieval glass, from the fourteenth century, is finer than any outside Chartres. The crypt contains a Roman pillar and is worth a visit to see the ingenuity of the recent unearthing work which makes up for inadequate foundations by binding them together with stainless steel rods.

The north side of the Minster is best seen from the walls, while the south entrance leads to a maze of narrow medieval streets. The Shambles is the best known, its name deriving from "shamel", the Old English word for slaughterhouse. It leads to the rapidly named Wharfedale. Wharfedale Gate. Down these narrow lanes the houses, now mostly shops, are built out over the pavement so that they nearly shut out the sky.

York also has a Georgian past. The grand houses built on the slow climb up Micklegate were for those who preferred to leave the rabble in the cluttered streets on the other side of the Ouse. And there are the Assembly Rooms, a good example of Anglo-Palladian architecture, built by Lord Burlington in 1731-32. The front of the building was remodelled in Victorian times, but the over-pillared hall is perfect.

In front of the high mound of Clifford's Tower, built by Henry III, is the Castle Museum, which shows York as it was from the Tudors until the beginning of the twentieth century by reconstructing whole streets and shop fronts. York is also famous for its other magnificent museum, the Railway Museum, near the station, which contains many prize steam engines and allows visitors to climb up into the cab to see how it was driven. From time to time exhibits are taken on special expeditions to Scarborough to let off steam.

York is right in the centre of Yorkshire. The villages close by, such as Buttercrambe, Sheriff Hutton and the strange mock-French village of Ripley, built to a whim of Sir William Amcotts Ingilby in 1827, make a pleasant drive through good countryside. Other specific destinations are within easy reach.

Nicholas Wapshott

A Scotsman went to Heaven and sought admission on the grounds of his earthly life. His computerised records have been one of stainless rectitude. St Peter consulted his computerised records: "I see you were a grocer, a butler (amplified), and an elder of the kirk. How very commendable."

"Aye," the Scotsman said. "And I never short-changed a customer, always showed mercy to those miscreants who came before me, and laboured in all my spare moments at the Lord's work." "Excellent," said St Peter. "But is says here you are from Edinburgh." The man agreed he was.

"Very well, you can come in," St Peter said, making to unlock the gates. "But you won't like it much here."

Like dog owners who are said to grow to look like their pets, Edinburghers are said to have assumed the physical attributes of their city: grey, formal and elegant, but cold, dry and windy. They are said to be like their parents conceived them while fully clothed. Sex in Edinburgh are things for delivering coal.

It is all a gross calumny put about by Glaswegians jealous of Edinburgh's breeding. Glasgow, like her first cousin and contemporary, Liverpool, is blowy but lovable old peasant woman who has lost her looks and most of her teeth in a life of toil, struggle and rape. Edinburgh is no virgin; she had a gay youth, but she has had an easier life, and has fastidiously kept her good looks.

The precipitous city reveals her creamy glory

Her high-rise concrete warts are few apart from one monster, the St James's Centre, right in the middle of the city.

Her beauty comes largely from her being an up-and-down sort of place, full of ridges and ravines; from any one place you can see most of the rest. Stevenson, one of an embarrassingly long list of literary sons, called her his precipitous city. And now that she has

had a good wash, the Craigleith sandstone of which she is built is revealed, not as Presbyterian grey, but as delicious cream.

Since the English last came to ravage her in 1550, some divine providence has sheltered her from enemy bombs, and twentieth century planners. Her oldest standing structure, St Margaret's Chapel, is in sight of its millennial; a newly published list of Britain's his-

toric buildings gives Edinburgh 13 columns, as against 10 for the whole of London and a miserly two for Bath. The rules for listing buildings are slightly less rigid in Scotland, but it is still an unrivalled treasure house of good architecture.

Mind you, the old dowager may have fixed her face but she did not always wash her neckers. It is only three years since the city of half a million got herself a sewage treatment plant, and within my short memory her back streets displayed filthy slums to rival Naples. Now the housing is better, and she no longer flushes her toilet straight into the Forth estuary.

Even in these hard times, Edinburgh wears a well-fed slave to a single trade, be it

Behind her superior, exterior, behind those ubiquitous brown roller-blinds that Scots erect lest daylight penetrate to fade the carpets, the old lady knows how to enjoy herself—and not just at last annual cultural breakfast when all the world wants a slice and will happily tread the boards of the most obscure church hall in Leith.

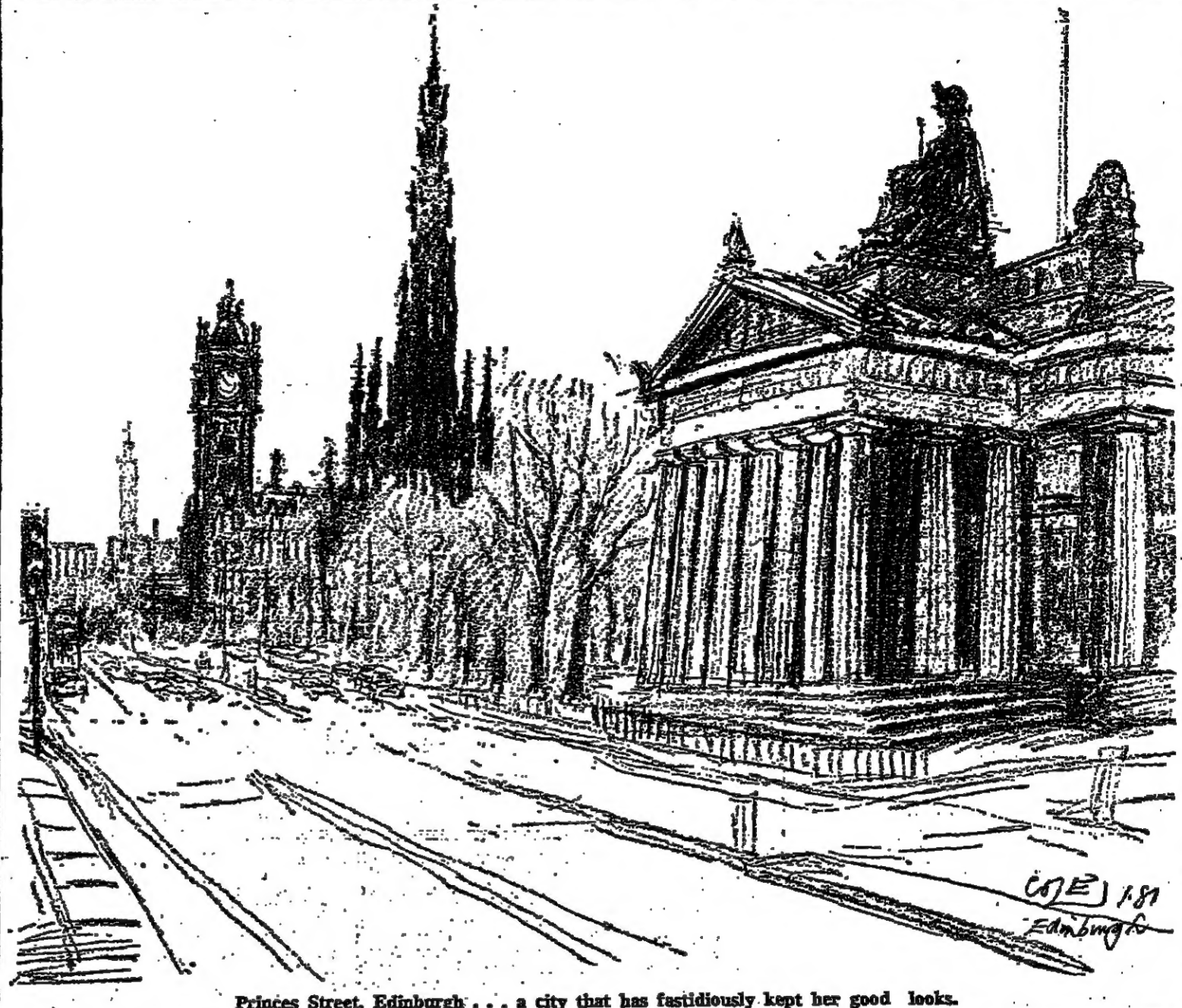
The greatest Scots inventor after James Watt was the man who thought of the licensed grocery store, a great Edinburgh institution. City maroons of outward uprightness have known for generations the value of a discreet request for "a little something under the potatoes" in the weekly shopping order.

After a long Dark Age that began about the time of the First World War and was imposed by a Prime Minister who was needlers to say, Welsh, Edinburgh has recently emerged into a new Golden Age of enlightenment, civilisation and ease. The pubs no longer shut at 10.

I always felt there was something improper about being thrown out of an alehouse while it was still daylight. It was like being caught without your trousers.

But great was it before that time to be alive, and to be in Milne's Bar then was very heaven. Dublin, say your heart out. Wales, alas but Edinburgh could a young man thirst for knowledge and McQuinn's Eighty-Shilling Heavy, stand at the public bar with W. H. Auden, and be thrown into the gutter from the same pole on the same day, with Hugh MacDiarmid?

Alan Hamilton



Princes Street, Edinburgh... a city that has fastidiously kept her good looks.

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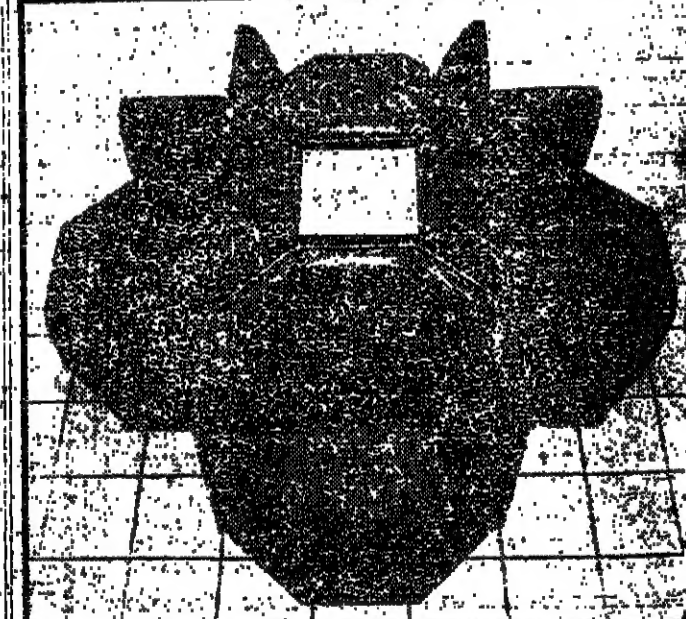
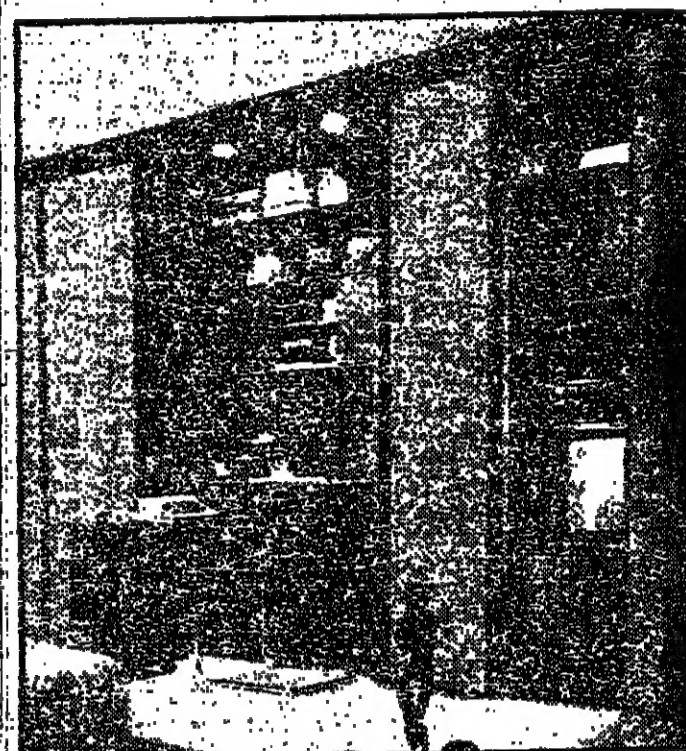
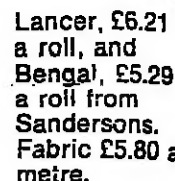
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YORKSHIRE DALES

On Design



Left: Design for garage and room above, fore and aft, by Rosemary Harris. Right: Interlubke arrangement of desk available from Oscar Woollens. Below right: Octave chair from Oscar Woollens and Harrods.



Below : Alto chair from Oscar Woollens and Harrods.
Right : Olga Shelving from Habitat.



I was a little disappointed with the Anthology collection—I do wish there were some adaptations of periods later than the nineteenth century, being, as we are, well into the twentieth; how about some 1930s papers? I decided against "Bengal" because the colours, and pattern were very definite, and it might be difficult to put other patterns against it. Also, I am against curtains and don't have them if I can possibly avoid them. The very day I was in the carpet shop I saw a sample of carpet from Africa. Campets in Baker Street came through the letterbox in exactly the right shade of green, so the carpet at 78.5 a yard is fabric.

This year I tried John Lewis again, with exactly the same result. I went roaring off to Barkers' basement, and the same nice man sold me several bookcases—some 30 yards of shelves. It seemed a long wait. I collected that during the 1975-76 closure. I had acquired five yards of bookcases on the Stuarts. Barkers said I would take a fortnight, found they could deliver in 10 days. What can I say to John Lewis except that next time I will try Barkers first.

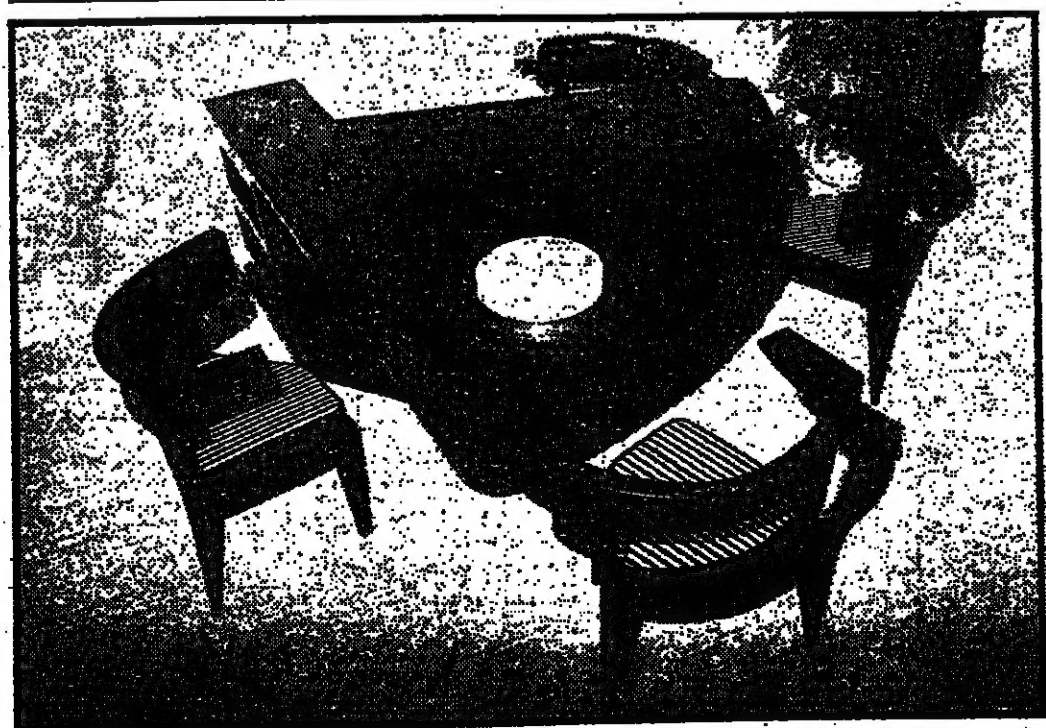
by the Italian woman designer
Cini Boeri, and her 7ft. opalescent
black table, the top in black and
glass, a thing of great beauty
at \$348.

Covetousness, of course, is
sin. I would have had this
"Chariot" chaise longue by
Paul Furtiz in steel and leather
at \$598, to replace mine (I
bought a junk one a few
years ago), a whole wall of
laterulubki shelves, with their
office and desk fitment, and
the bar, in black, two Octaves
shown here, by Collins
and Hayes in cream, (from \$248

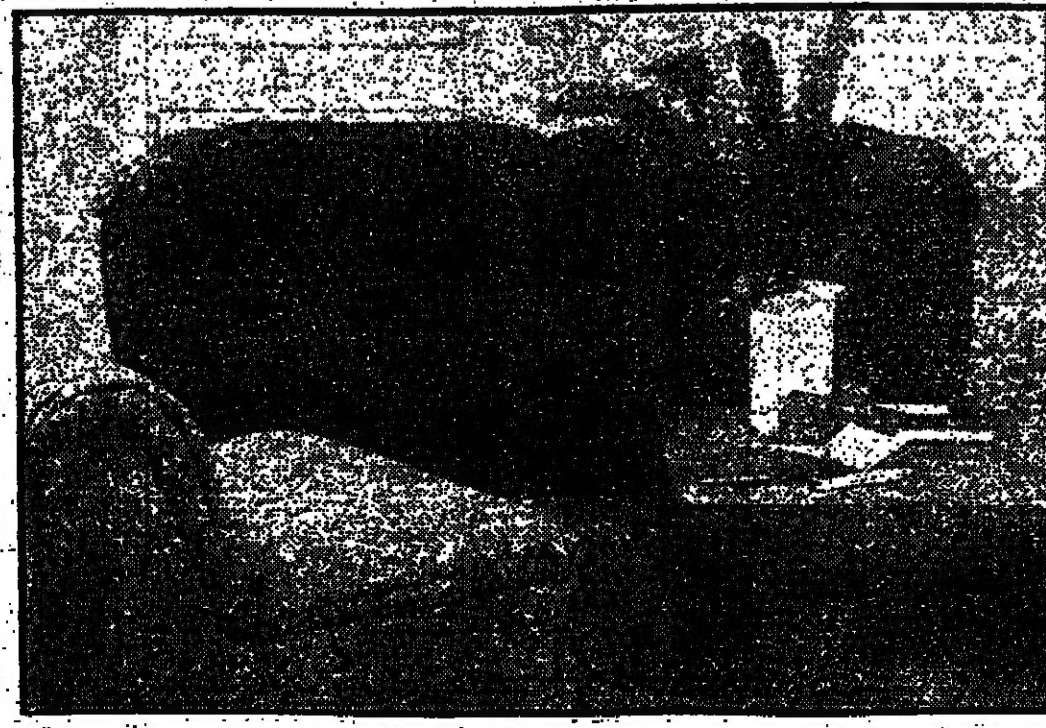
I could still paint the floor in white and have several of the handwoven rugs—which vary in price from \$72.50 to a modernized \$24.45. The snag, for me, comes in the instructions for ordering. "Please specify the rug in this extent, we rely on the Post Office and outside carriers to deliver merchandise to you. Therefore deliveries cannot be made on specific 'day' times." It always astonishes me in New York to find that the

house, with the next they could be sure that you can feel the blast as you open the front door. "I get into my garage you have to go back down a slope, round a tree and in. "It will take four minutes", say my kindly neighbors, "as they offer to back me up in for me. They then get the car in for me. They then get the car in, leaving the handbrake on, on falling off the concrete onto tracks into the gravel and digging myself in. Finally, a grimacing builder came and added another eight inches to the width of the tracks. I then

Right: Olga Shelving from Habitat.



Woollens.
Right: One Single and two
corner Baluff chairs from
Habitat available in nine
colours.



It has been brought to our attention that a number of paragraphs in the Kitchen Gardens Real Life Kitchen Bowens articles by Kathy Bowen on October 11 and 12 had been taken without acknowledgment from the House of Commons Kitchen Gardens Real Life Kitchen Guide which is the copyright of the Conde Nast Publications Limited. We now acknowledge that those paragraphs infringe copyright and we and Mr. Bowen apologise for any embarrassment or annoyance which the infringement may have caused.

Bond Downing is on holiday

